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The RAINDROP

REYNARD BEFORE THE KING

The RAINDROP

A COLLECTION
of
ENTERTAINING STORIES
for
YOUNG PEOPLE

PUBLISHED BY
THE ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DEAF
FOR THE INCREASE AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE RELATING TO THE DEAF
WASHINGTON, D. C.
1910

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PREFACE

" THE Raindrop " is a book of stories written so simply that any child can read them. It has been the favorite of thousands of children. It has not only interested them because its stories are well told, but it has given them a taste for reading, which is one of the great objects of a child's story book.

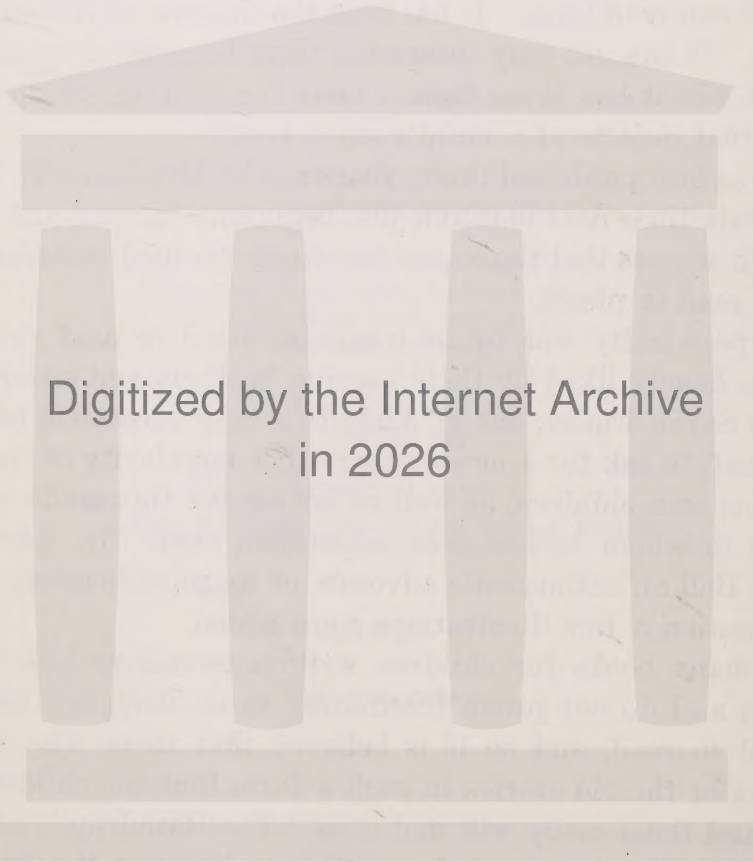
It was first published thirty years ago by Mr. James H. Logan to entertain little deaf children just beginning to read, and it met with such success that the copies in schools for deaf children were literally read to pieces.

Its popularity was by no means confined to deaf children; it was as keenly liked by their hearing brothers and sisters, and led Miss Sarah Fuller, one of America's most successful teachers of the deaf, to ask for a new edition. The popularity of the book among his own children, as well as among the thousands of deaf children in whom he has been interested, made Mr. Alexander Graham Bell an enthusiastic advocate of its republication, and at his suggestion a few illustrations were added.

So many books for children written nowadays lack simple language and do not prove fascinating to children because they are hard to read, and so it is believed that those who want a collection of the old stories in such a form that the children can understand them easily will find it in " The Raindrop," which is published by the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf, and the proceeds of the sales of which will be used in carrying on the work and furthering the various objects of the Association.

D. F.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
March, 1910.



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SALUTATORY[1]

THIS little magazine is the result of a plan which has been maturing for years. The younger pupils of Schools for the Deaf, and often those more advanced, have little or no reading suitable for them. For want of something which can be read without great and continuous effort, many have no incentive to keep on reading. In this magazine, it is intended to select the most popular stories which have delighted the hearts of other children, and by simplifying the language place these treasures within the reach of deaf children. If they are interesting and adapted to the ready comprehension of the child, a powerful stimulus is given to reading. The oftener a deaf child can be encouraged to read by himself, the better are his chances for acquiring a perfect command of language, and the more apt is he to feel himself a member of general society, and not merely one of a particular class cut off from the pleasures of his hearing and speaking fellows. The restoration of the deaf child to a share in all the privileges and responsibilities of general society is the highest aim of all deaf institutions; and can we but place him in possession of that great store of literary treasures which is the common heritage of all, we establish a community of sentiment between him and his hearing fellows that must greatly tend to the advantage of each.

The production of these stories has been a labor of love, amply repaid in witnessing the pleasure which the children, for whose especial benefit they were written, derived from their perusal. Many fellow-workers in the profession will doubtless appreciate the pleasure of ministering to the happiness of the children whose welfare is our common aim. They are children of like feelings

[1] This salutatory is from the introductory number of a magazine called "The Raindrop," which first appeared in June, 1879, and was published by the Western Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf, of which Mr. Logan was the Principal. Mr. Logan has co-operated in this republication in book form and made valuable suggestions regarding the slight revising that has been done.

and aspirations as their hearing fellows, and, because of their peculiar affliction, have even a greater claim upon our highest and best efforts for their welfare and happiness; and should any feel disposed to co-operate with us in this work for the common good, their aid will be most welcome. There is probably no work which calls for a nobler kind of effort and yields so great a pleasure. To secure the respect and unaffected love of little children and witness their happiness is sufficient reward to the teacher. So thought such men as Comenius, Pestalozzi, Froebel, De l'Epee and others: for this they were content to spend their strength and energies, and even to suffer. For this toiled Hans Christian Andersen, and the glad smiles of millions of children who read his books, are the perpetual and delightful memorial of his labors. Truly, the most delightful spot in the vineyard of the Lord is the garden of childhood, and if such men were content to spend their best energies there, shall not we do the same?

James H. Logan.

WHAT THE TINY DROP SAID

As a little rain-drop clung
To the bosom of a cloud,
Much it trembled ere it fell,
And it sobbed and wept aloud.

"Such a tiny drop as I,
Prithee do not let me go;
My humble work were nothing
On the great round world below.

"If the tender blades are parched,
Or the corn is very dry,
There is nothing I can do—
Such a tiny thing as I.

"I cannot swell a river,
Or e'en fill a lily's bell;
And should be lost forever
In the forest, if I fell.

"I pray thee, let me tarry
In the blue and sunny sky,
Disporting in the sunbeams—
Such a tiny drop as I."

"I know you are a little drop,"
The cloud it whispered low;
"And yet how sad a thing 'twould be
If every drop said so!

"Alone you cannot clothe the mead
With fresh and living green;
But each its little work must do,
The little blades between.

"You cannot form the smallest rill,
Much less the foaming tide;
But you may join and form a sea,
With others by your side.

"In all the great and glorious works
The mighty Lord has done,
There is a post of duty fixed
For every little one.

"Each has its humble sphere to fill,
Each has its lot assigned,
Each must its little burden bear
With firm and willing mind."

WHAT THE TINY DROP DID

The cloud then gently disengaged
Its child, and let it go,
And bade it do its duty well
In the great world below.

And as it floated gently down
Thro' boundless fields of air,
Lo! all at once, it saw around,
Millions of rain-drops there.

Each one of all that myriad throng
Had left its mother's breast,
Resolved, whatever might befall,
To try to do his best.

All fear was banished, hope prevailed,
Joy glanced from every eye,
And all these diamond glistenings made
A rainbow in the sky.

Down, down, they float incessantly
On forest, field and flower,

Till not a leaf or blade is seen,
  Unfreshened by the shower.

Still down, and down, from out the air,
  On hill, and dale, and moor,
On garden, waste, and wilderness,
  Incessantly they pour.

The verdure lifts its drooping head,
  The flowers in rapture glow,
The babbling brooks and rivulets
  With leaping waters flow.

These swell the mighty river's tide,
  Which rolls in majesty,
Until our tiny drop becomes
  Part of the wide wide sea.

There, while it joined the anthem deep
  Of ocean's surges loud,
A sunbeam raised it up to be
  Part of a golden cloud.

THE RAINDROP

THE ROMANCE OF REYNARD, THE FOX.

The Lords of the Beasts Accuse Reynard.

A great many years ago the Lion was King of all the beasts. He lived at Sandden, where he had his court and sat to judge and punish the beasts for doing wrong. The Lion told all the beasts that they must come to court. He said he would be very angry if any beast staid at home and did not come. The beasts were all afraid of the Lion, and did not want to make him angry. So all the beasts, both great and small, came to the Lion's court, except Reynard, the Fox, who did not come. He was a very wicked and sly Fox. He had hurt and killed many beasts. Reynard was afraid to go to court, because he thought the King would punish him. He did not feel safe, and staid at home.

When all the beasts had come to court and stood before the Lion, the Fox had very few friends. The beasts all hated him, and told about the wicked things Reynard had done. Isgrim, the Wolf, was Reynard's greatest enemy. The Wolf had many friends who were glad to see him speak to the King and tell about Reynard's wicked acts. Isgrim spoke to the Lion and said: "Great and good King, I beg you to hear me, and feel pity for the harm that wicked Reynard has done to me, my wife, my cubs, and my other wolf friends. That bad Fox slyly walked into my house one day. He saw my little cubs sleeping in their soft beds. He was very cruel, for he went to them and bit them and scratched out their eyes, and now my little cubs are blind. The Judge told the Fox to come to court to be tried. The Fox would not come. He knew he was guilty, and he ran away and hid in his hole. He

despises you and your laws, great King, and all the other beasts know that these things are true. Reynard has done many other wicked things to make me feel angry and sad. I cannot tell you all, and you have not time to hear all. Pity me, mighty King, and make this wicked Fox do right."

When Isgrim, the Wolf, had finished speaking, a small Hound named Curtise came to the King and told his story. He said that in winter, when it was very cold, it was hard to find anything to eat. Once he and his wife had only a little piece of cake to eat, but the wicked Fox came and stole it from them.

Curtise stopped speaking, and then a Cat named Tibert jumped up looking very angry. Tibert stood before the Lion and said: "Great Lion, I must say that the Fox seems very bad; but other beasts are wicked too. If we talk about all the bad things that beasts do, we will find that no one is good. The piece of cake that Curtise, the Hound, told you about was not his. It was my cake, and he stole it from me. It was stolen some years ago; and I do not care about it now. I had gotten the cake from the mill while the watchman was asleep in bed one night."

When the Lynx heard these words he stood up and said: "Tibert, do you think it is wrong to tell about the wicked things Reynard has done? All the beasts know that the Fox is a great thief; he loves no one, and he likes to kill and rob other beasts. Reynard does not love the Lion, his King. He would be glad to sell or kill the King for the leg of a fat hen. I will tell you what I saw the Fox do to Kayward, the Hare, a few days ago. Kayward is here now and he will tell you that I speak truly. Reynard told the Hare that he would teach him to sing a pretty song. He made the Hare sit on the ground and sing: 'I believe you! I believe you!' I was walking in the woods and heard the Hare singing. When I came near the Fox and the Hare I saw a very wicked thing. Reynard seized the Hare by the throat with his sharp teeth and tried to kill and eat him. I drove away the Fox and saved the Hare's life. Great and good King, please put the wicked Fox in prison and punish him. If you do not punish this bad Fox, he will do harm to all the beasts."

Then Isgrim, the Wolf, stood up again, and said: "Mr. Lynx, you speak truly. I think wicked beasts should be punished, and good beasts should have peace."

When Grimbard, the Badger, who was a great friend of the Fox, heard this, he was very angry, and jumped up saying: " Mr. Wolf, you are a low, mean beast. You know that a beast who thinks bad thoughts cannot speak good things. What bad things can you tell about my good friend the Fox? I want you to know that you have done many wicked things yourself and I think you ought to be hanged. I tell you that if the Fox stood here, and the King liked him, you would be asking for pity. You wicked Wolf, you have often fought the Fox, biting and tearing him with your strong sharp teeth. I remember many of the wicked things you have done. You were walking with the Fox one day, and saw a man driving a cart full of fish on the road. You were both hungry and wanted a fish. You were afraid of the man; but the Fox was brave and jumped into the cart. He took a fat fish and threw it out of the cart. Then you took the fish and ran away with it. The Fox ran after you and asked you to give him part of the fish. But you were very greedy; you ate all the fish and gave the Fox only the bones. One day Reynard found a nice piece of ham in a trap. He worked hard to get the ham; but he was caught in the trap. He was clever and got out of the trap, and ran away with the ham in his mouth. You were standing near and saw him. You ran to him and took the ham from him. He asked you to give him a piece of it. You laughed and said, 'Pretty Fox, I will give you a piece of ham,' but you mocked him and did not give him any. These and many other mean things the Wolf has done to the Fox. I ask the King to help the Fox and punish the Wolf. Now, Kayward, the Hare, comes here and tells you he is sad because the Fox was cruel to him. You know Kayward must go to school and learn to read; but he is a lazy dunce. The wise Fox was teaching him his lesson, and whipped him to make him learn so he would be clever. If beasts who go to school are not whipped, they will not learn. You remember that the Hound said he worked hard one cold winter to

get a piece of cake. I think Curtise, the Hound, better keep still. He told us that he stole the cake, and we know that those who steal are not happy. The Fox did not do wrong. He only took the cake from a thief. He who knows the law should obey the law. If Reynard had killed the Hound he would have done right, because the Hound was a thief, and it is right to kill a thief. But the Fox knew that the King is the Judge, and he did not kill the Hound. The Fox showed great respect to the King; but the King does not thank him for it. I think these foolish stories the beasts tell about the Fox will not do him any harm. My dear friend, Reynard, is a very good Fox. I do not like to hear lies about him. The King has commanded the beasts to live in peace, and Reynard does not like to hurt or kill any beast. He eats only one meal a day and lives like a good priest. Reynard's friends tell me that he has not eaten any meat for a year. He has left his strong castle, and now he lives in a little house and is very poor. He has sworn not to kill any beasts, and he gives all his money to the poor. Now he has nothing to eat and he must beg for bread."

When Grimbard, the Badger, finished this long speech, all the beasts looked and saw Chanticleer, the Cock, coming down the hill carrying a dead hen on a bier. The Fox had killed this hen and bitten off her head. Chanticleer brought this head to the King. The Cock came first. He was very sad and struck his feet with his wings. Two hens walked sadly on each side of the bier. Each hen carried a burning candle. Two young hens carried the bier, and they cried bitterly for the dead hen. When they came and stood before the King, the Cock knelt down and said: "Great King, I am in trouble. Hear me, and punish the wicked Fox, who has killed my dear child which you see lying dead on the bier. Hear me, and I will tell my sad story. In the spring, when the sky was bright and the sun was warm, I was very happy. I looked at my many pretty wives who were fat and strong. We walked proudly in a large yard near the barn. We scratched the ground and ate the worms. Six good dogs took care of us and we were safe. There was a high fence around the yard. We were all happy and were not afraid. Reynard, the wicked and

cunning Fox, often jumped over the fence; but the good dogs drove him away. One day the dogs caught him and tore his skin with their teeth. Then the Fox was afraid, and he did not come near us again for a long time. At last Reynard came again; but he was dressed like a priest, and he brought a letter from the King. I read in the letter that you, great King, commanded all beasts to live in peace and not kill each other. Reynard said to me, 'Mr. Chanticleer, do not be afraid of me: I will not again eat any flesh. I am very sorry that I stole and killed. I am now old and must soon die. I want to be a good Fox and go to Heaven.' Then he went away and I was fooled. I was very glad, and I called all my little chickens to me. I told them not to be afraid of the Fox, and then we all went out of the yard and had a good time. We did not know that the wicked Fox was hiding in a bush near us. He ran out of the bush and stood between me and the gate. Then he caught one of my young chickens and ran off with it in his mouth. He was very hungry and wanted to eat my chickens, and he was not afraid of the dogs. He hides and watches every day and night to catch and kill us. I had twenty chickens, and he has killed sixteen of them. A few hours ago some dogs chased him and took this dead hen from him. Good King, this is my sad story, and I ask you to pity me and punish this wicked Fox for killing my dear wives and my little chickens."

When the King heard this sad story he was very angry. He stood up and said: "Mr. Grimbard, do you hear the bad things they tell me about your friend the Fox, who pretends to be a good priest, but is a great knave? Reynard fasted and spoke good words because he wanted to deceive the beasts. Now, hear me. I swear I will punish this wicked Fox. I tell you, Chanticleer, I have heard your story, and I will do what is right and just. I will talk with my wise beasts now about helping you and punishing the Fox."

Then all the beasts cried and sung a sad song for the dead hen, and dug a grave and put the body in it. On the grave they put a large smooth stone. On the stone were written the words: "Here lies Chanticleer's child, Copple, whom Reynard, the Fox,

killed. Mourn you all, who read this, for her death was very sad."

The King now called his Lords, the wise beasts, and asked them what they thought about the bad Fox, and how they thought he ought to be punished. All the Lords thought alike. They said to all the beasts that the Fox must come to the King to be judged for his wicked deeds. They told Bruin, the Bear, to take a letter from the King to the Fox, telling him he must come to court. Then the Bear came and stood before the King. The King said to him: "Mr. Bruin, I want you to carry this letter to Reynard, the Fox; but you must be very careful. The Fox is very cunning; he knows how to flatter and deceive you, and hurt you. He is full of tricks, and if you are not very wise and careful he will fool you." The Bear said: "My great King, if I see the Fox, I will surely bring him to you. I am not a fool, and Reynard cannot deceive me." The Bear then proudly went away to bring the Fox, and we will soon see how foolishly he boasted.

Bruin Fails to Bring Reynard to Court.

The next day when the sun was shining bright and warm, Bruin, the Bear, started to find Reynard, the Fox. He thought he was very wise, and that the Fox could not deceive him. While walking through the dark woods, Bruin saw a high hill, which he must climb to reach the house of Reynard. Reynard had many houses, but this was the most beautiful. In these woods the Fox had a path which only he knew, and here he could hide and feel safe from his enemies.

When Bruin came to this house, which was very large and strong, he found the gates were shut. Then he knocked loudly at the door, and shouted: "Mr. Reynard, are you at home? I am Bruin, one of your friends, and the King sent me to tell you to come and see him. He wants to judge you, and let you speak for yourself about the bad things the beasts tell about you. The King says that if you do not come, he will catch you and hang you on a high tree till you are dead. He will take from you all

BRUIN PRESENTING THE SUMMONS TO THE KING'S COURT

your houses, and lands, and money. Now, good Mr. Reynard, I ask you to be good and come with me to the King."

Now the Fox was lying near the gate in the warm sunlight. When he heard the Bear speak these words, he was frightened and went and hid in a dark hole. In his house were many dark rooms for him to hide in when his enemies came to take him. Reynard knew that Bruin did not love him, and he thought how he might hurt the Bear, and make the beasts think him a very wise and clever Fox. So Reynard came out of his hole, and said: "Dear Bruin, my good friend, I am very glad to see you. Do not be angry at me because I did not come out to see you quickly. The King, who sent you to me, has not been kind to you. You have walked a long way and worked hard, and got nothing. I was myself going to see the King; but I am glad that you have come, because I think you can help me with your wise words. Dear Mr. Bruin, could not the King have sent a servant to call me? It was a very little thing to do, and I think the King did wrong to make you work like a servant. I am sorry you and I are not standing before the King now; for I am afraid I shall bring much trouble to you when I go with you. I have not eaten any meat, and the new food I am eating now makes me feel very sick and weak." Then Bruin, the Bear, said: "My dear friend Reynard, what new food is this which makes you so sick?" Reynard said: "Truly, Mr. Bruin, what good will it do you to know? It is bad food. We poor foxes, you know, are not kings, and cannot eat many good and sweet things like them; we must eat any food we can find. The food I ate was honey. It was so good and sweet, and I was hungry and nearly dead. So I ate too much and it made me sick." Then said Bruin: "Oh! Mr. Fox, was it honey, and do you think honey is bad food? Honey is very good and sweet; it is the best food in the world, and kings and rich people love it. Dear Mr. Reynard, give me some of this honey, and I will be your good friend, and help you. I will do anything you want, and be your slave." "Oh! Mr. Bruin, you are in fun," said the Fox. And the Bear said: "Dear Mr. Fox, I am not in fun, I speak truly. If you give me a little honey, surely I will

love you more than all the other foxes in the world." Then Reynard said: "Oh, Mr. Bruin, if you speak truly, I will bring you much honey. I will bring so much honey that ten bears cannot eat it all." The Bear answered: "No, Mr. Fox, I do not want ten bears to eat the honey. I want to eat all the honey myself. It is very good, and I could eat all the honey in the world." Then sly Reynard said: "My dear friend Bruin, a farmer named Lanfert lives near us. He has so much honey that you could not eat it all in eight years. I love you much, and will give you all this honey."

When the Fox said this, Bruin was crazy for the honey, and said that if he had one good meal, he would be Reynard's friend for all time. He said he would make the beasts stop saying bad things about him. Reynard smiled, for he was glad to see how easily the Bear was fooled. So he said: "Mr. Bruin, if you want ten barrels of honey, I will give them to you." These words made the Bear feel so glad, that he laughed till he could not stand up, but rolled on the ground. Then Reynard thought: "This is good; I will now lead this silly Bear where he will cry, and not laugh." Then he said to the Bear: "Friend Bruin, we must hurry, we have very little time; I will now give you what I would not give to any fox." Bruin thanked the Fox, and they both walked together in the woods. Bruin believed the Fox would give him as much honey as he could eat. At last they came to Lanfert's house, and when Bruin saw it, he was very glad.

Lanfert was a carpenter, and a large, strong man. He had in his yard a great oak log which he had split in the middle, and then had driven in one or two wedges, so as to leave a wide gap in the log. When Reynard saw this gap, he smiled sweetly, and said: "See this large log, my dear friend Bruin. There is much sweet honey hid in it. Try and get it out with your paw. But be careful and do not eat too much honey. Honey is very good, but too much will make you sick and hurt you. If you get sick, all your friends will blame me." Bruin said: "Dear friend Reynard, do not be afraid about me. Do not think me a great fool. I am not greedy, and will not get sick." Reynard replied: "You

are right, friend Bruin, I was rude. Put your head in the cleft of the log and you will find the honey."

The Bear was so greedy for the honey, that he put his head in the cleft of the log. When Reynard saw the Bear's head in the cleft, he pulled out the wedges. Then each half of the log came together and held the Bear's head tight, so he could not pull it out. When Bruin found his head fast in the cleft, he scratched with his paws and made a great noise. Lanfert came out of the house with a large stick in his hand, and saw the Bear howling and struggling. Reynard was not far from the log, and when he saw the man coming, he mockingly said to the Bear: "Is the honey good, friend Bruin? Do not eat too much. You know good things often make people sick. If you get sick, you will be very late meeting the King. When Lanfert comes he will give you a drink of water to wash down the honey." When he had said this, the Fox laughed and ran away home.

When Lanfert saw that the Bear was caught fast in the cleft, he ran to his friends and told them to come and help kill the Bear. When the people heard it, all the old men and women, and all the boys and girls in town came running to the log where the Bear was held fast. Some carried rakes, some sticks, and some axes. So many people, and the noise they made, frightened Bruin very much. He struggled and pulled as hard as he could, and at last he got his head out of the cleft. But his ears and the skin of his face were torn off. His face was all bloody and dirty; the claws were torn off his paws, and he was a very sorry looking Bear. He was so weak he could not walk, and his eyes were blinded so that he could not see.

Lanfert and his friends stood around the Bear and struck him hard blows. One and all hit the poor Bear. Houghlin, a little man with bow legs, struck him with a heavy bat, and Ludolf, who had a very long nose, struck him with an iron rod. And then there were Bertolf, whose arms were very long, and Burkin, and Ablequack, and the Friar with his long stick, and grandmother Jullock. Strong Lanfert and tall Ottram hurt poor Bruin more than all the others; for Lanfert's stick was very heavy, and there

was a ball of lead at the end of Ottram's staff. The men struck Bruin so hard that he was nearly killed.

The poor Bear could only sit still and groan as he felt these hard blows. But soon Bruin stood up suddenly and jumped into a deep river near by. He jumped over the heads of several old women, and pushed some of them into the cold water of the river. One of these was grandmother Jullock. When her husband saw her fall into the water, he was frightened and stopped striking the Bear. He yelled: "Help! help! grandmother Jullock is in the river!" When the people heard him yell, they all left the Bear and went to help grandmother Jullock out of the water. While they were helping the old woman out of the water, the Bear swam in the river and was glad to get away alive. But Bruin was very mad, and he swore and cursed the honey that had tempted him, and the Fox that had deceived him and brought all this trouble upon him. He swam down the river for three miles, and when he became very weak, he lay down on the bank of the river to rest. The blood was running down his face, and he was weak and groaned, thinking that he was dying.

When the Fox was on his way home to his hole, he stole a fat hen, and carried it through a lonely path so that no one might see him. He came down to the river. He thought that Lanfert had killed the Bear, and he felt glad. He thought to himself: "I am happy now; the Bear, my great enemy, is now dead, and no one will think that I killed him." But while Reynard was saying these words to himself, he looked and saw Bruin, the Bear, resting on the bank of the river. He was much surprised, and very mad, to find Bruin alive. He railed at Lanfert, the carpenter, and said to himself: "O! Lanfert, you are a stupid ass. You were foolish not to kill the Bear. He is so large and fat, and very good to eat. Any man would have been glad to get so much good meat." So thinking, Reynard walked up to the bank where the Bear lay, and mockingly said: "Dear Mr. Bruin, I hope you are well!" The Bear said: "O! you dirty, wicked Fox! your face is like brass." But the Fox talked on, and said: "My dear friend, I hope you remember all that happened in Lanfert's yard. I hope you were

honest, and paid for the honey. If you did not pay Lanfert for the honey, it will look bad, and everybody will call you a thief. I do not want people to speak evil of you, dear Bruin, and I will pay for the honey with my own money. The honey was truly very sweet, and I know where I can find more. But, my dear friend, what a strange hat you have on your head; I never saw a hat like it. Why did you shave the hair off your head, and why did you cut off your ears? You have cut off the pretty tuft of hair on your head, and you have no gloves on your paws. My good friend, you must not go out with bare hands. A fine gentleman Bear, like you, must wear gloves. People tell me that you can sing very sweetly the song, 'Stay thy hand!' "

These taunting words of the Fox made the Bear mad with rage. When Bruin felt stronger, he jumped into the river and swam to the other side; then he wondered how he could go to the Lion, his King. He was very weak and could not walk, but he must go to the King. So he lay down and rolled on the road. He rolled half a mile, and then rested. Again he rolled half a mile. In this way he travelled slowly, and at last came to the house of the King. When the King and the Lords saw the Bear rolling to them on the road, they were much astonished. Bruin was all dirty and bloody, and at first his friends did not know him.

When the Lion recognized him and knew that it was Bruin, he roared with rage. He said: "Is it you, Mr. Bruin, whom I sent to bring Reynard, the Fox, to my house? What wicked enemy has hurt you?" Bruin said: "O, my good King! see, I am nearly dead. Reynard, the wicked Fox, did all this hurt to me, and made me ashamed and sad." Then the angry Lion said: "I swear I will punish this wicked Fox, and I will make him afraid."

The King at once called his wise Lords, and asked them what should be done about the Fox. They all thought that Reynard should be asked to come to the King again, and they thought that wise Tibert, the Cat, should go and bring the Fox. When the King heard this, he was pleased, for he thought that the Cat would be able to bring the Fox to him.

Tibert Fails to Bring Reynard to Court.

So the King sent for Tibert, the Cat, and said to him: "Mr. Tibert, you must go to Reynard again, and let me know what he says; perhaps he is not so very bad. Tell him that he must come. Tell him that if he disobeys me, I shall punish him, his wife and children, and all his friends. I will make his punishment so dreadful that every beast will be afraid to disobey me again."

Then Tibert, the Cat, said: "My great King, please send some other beast, great and strong. I am small and weak, and if Mr. Bruin, who is so great and strong, could not bring Reynard, I cannot hope to bring him." The King answered: "It is because you are wise, not because you are strong, that I send you. A wise man can do things which a strong man cannot." The Cat said: "Great King, because you wish it, I shall obey. I feel afraid, but I will try, and I hope to bring Reynard."

Then Tibert hurried and got ready and started to the house of the Fox. When walking on the road, Tibert saw a Crow flying near him, and he said: "Good morning, wise bird; fly on my right hand." But the Crow flew on the left hand, and then the Cat was very sad. If the Crow flew on his right hand he would succeed in bringing Reynard; but if the bird flew on his left hand he would fail. Tibert was very wise, and by watching birds flying he would tell about things that would happen. Tibert knew that he would have trouble, but he walked on hoping that all would turn out well. As he came to the house, he found Reynard standing in front of the gate.

Tibert said: "I hope you are well, my dear friend Reynard; the King sent me to you to tell you that you must come to him. He says that if you disobey or if you are tardy, he will kill you." Then the Fox said: "I am very glad to see you here, dear Tibert, for you are one of my friends, and I will do what you wish. I hope the King will live long and happily, and never be sick. Stay with me this night, and eat and drink; in the morning, as soon as you wish, we will both go to see the King. A few days ago, sly Mr. Bruin came to my house, and he looked so cross that I was afraid

"TIBERT, CREEP INTO THIS HOLE AND YOU WILL SOON CATCH MORE MICE THAN YOU CAN EAT"

to go with him. But, my dear Tibert, I am not afraid to go with you." Said Tibert: "You speak like a brave Fox, but I think it best that we go now, for the moon is shining as bright as day." Reynard said: "No, my dear friend, let us go in the daytime; I am afraid to go at night." Then said the Cat: "If you wish, I will stay with you all night; what will we eat?" The Fox said: "Truly, I am very poor and have little to eat. I have some good and sweet honey. Would you like to have some?" Tibert then said: "I do not like honey; one mouse is better to me than all the honey in the world." Then Reynard said: "My dear friend Tibert, I know a man who lives in town, and he has a barn near his house. In the barn there are so many mice, that you could not eat half of them in a year." Then the Cat spoke and said: "Dear, good Reynard, show me this barn full of mice, and I will be your slave and do anything you wish."

Reynard said: "Tibert, do you love mice so much?" Tibert answered: "I love mice more than I can tell. A mouse is sweeter to me than meat or honey to a king. Show me the barn and tell me how I can help you. If you killed my father, my mother, and all my friends, I would forgive you and love you for a mouse." Reynard said: "Surely, you are in fun, Tibert." "I swear I am not in fun," said the Cat.

Then Reynard said: "If what you say is true, and I don't doubt it, I will give you as many mice as you can eat." "You are in fun," said Tibert. Reynard answered: "Come with me then, and I will lead you to the barn and show you where to find the mice." Then the Cat and the Fox ran quickly to the barn. There was a mud wall around the barn for a fence. A few days ago, the Fox had stolen a fat hen in the barn and ran off with it. The farmer was very angry, and he put a trap in front of a hole in the wall to catch the Fox if he came again. Reynard knew very well that the trap was near the hole, so he said: "Tibert, creep into this hole and you will soon catch more mice than you can eat. Do you hear the mice squeaking? When you are full and can eat no more mice, come out of the hole when you wish. I will stay at this hole and wait for you, and in the morning we will both

go and see the King. But, Tibert, you must not stay very long in the hole, because my wife is waiting for me and wants me to come home soon."

Then Tibert said: "But will I get hurt if I go into this hole?" Then Reynard laughed at the Cat and said: "My dear friend, you are afraid. I thought you were a brave Cat." When the Fox said this, the Cat felt ashamed and went into the hole, and his head was caught in the trap. He tried to get out, but he could not, and the trap choked him. He cried loudly for help. Reynard stood in front of the hole, and heard the Cat crying for help. He was glad and mocked the poor, silly Cat, saying: "My dear Tibert, do you love mice? I hope you are finding the mice fat and good. If the farmer knew you were eating the mice in his barn, he would bring you some milk. I hear you singing. Do they sing like that at the King's house? I wish Isgrim, the Wolf, were here, for I should like to see all my friends having a good meal in this barn."

All this time, while the Fox was speaking, the Cat was held fast in the trap, and he mewed so loudly that the noise woke the farmer who was asleep in bed. He cried: "The Fox is caught! The Fox is caught!" and all the men in the house jumped out of bed. The farmer got up and gave his wife a lamp to light. Then he came to Tibert and hit him with a thick stick. Everybody in the house came out and struck the Cat with sticks. Tibert thought they would kill him. He jumped at the man and bit his face with his teeth and scratched it with his sharp claws. The farmer was surprised, and yelled for help. When his wife heard him yell, she called her son, Martin, to come and help his father.

All this time Reynard stood near the hole, seeing and hearing everything. He was glad, and he laughed so much he nearly burst. But the farmer fell down in a faint, and everybody left the Cat and went to help him.

The Fox now went home, thinking that Tibert was dead. When Tibert saw that the people had left him, he jumped out of the hole. He was too weak to walk, so he rolled on the road till he came to the King's house. When he came to the King, the sun

had set and it was very late. His body was bloody and bruised, his bones were broken, one eye was lost and his skin was torn.

The Lion was in a great rage, when he saw Tibert all covered with dirt and blood. He talked again to his Lords about punishing the Fox. While the Lords were sitting around the King and talking, Grimbard, the Badger, a friend of the Fox, stood up and spoke. He said: "My great King, and good friends, if the Fox were even more wicked than these beasts say, we could make him come. Reynard is great and rich, and you must tell him to come three times. If he will not come the third time that you send for him, then we shall know that he is a wicked and disobedient beast, and we will punish him."

Then the King asked the Badger if he knew any beast wise and brave enough to go and tell Reynard to come. Grimbard then answered: "My King, I am brave and wise. I am not afraid to go to that sly Fox and bring him to you. If you wish me to bring him, I will go and make him come."

Reynard Appears before the King.

Then the King said: "Go, Grimbard, and bring Reynard to me; but you must be very careful, for he is very cunning."

The Badger thanked the King and went away to find the Fox. When Grimbard came to the house of Reynard, he found him and his wife, Ermeline, playing with their cubs.

Grimbard bowed politely to Ermeline and Reynard and said: "My good friend, Reynard, you must come with me to the King. You must be careful and act wisely. If you disobey the King and show disrespect to him again, your punishment will be very terrible. The King sent me to you and now commands you for the third time to come to court. You are wise, and if you think about it, you will see that I am right. If you scorn the King again, he will in three days destroy your strong fort. He will catch your wife, your children, and your friends, and make them slaves. He will take you and hang you on a high tree till you are dead, and all bad beasts who rob and steal will be very much frightened.

If you come to the King, perhaps he will pardon you; but if you disobey him you cannot escape. Now my good friend, Reynard, I want you to be wise and come with me to the King."

Reynard listened to these words. He thought a little while, and he saw that Grimbard's advice was good. He said: "Grimbard, you are my best friend. I think you speak wisely and truly, and I will go with you. I am not afraid of the bad things the beasts say about me. I will go to the King because I know he needs my help, and when I talk to him he will not punish me. If I had done anything very bad, the King would not punish me, because he wants my help, and he knows there is no other beast as wise as I am. If the King thinks he does not need me, he will very soon find that he is mistaken. I know I have many enemies, but I am not afraid of them. They want to kill me; but I will show the King that I am innocent, and then they cannot hurt me. I am more cunning than my enemies and I can beat them all. You know that the King has always respected and honored me; but many of the beasts envied me, and I went away from him. Many enemies can hurt a man; but I do not fear these silly and jealous beasts. My good friend, Grimbard, I will go with you to the King. I do not want the King to hurt my wife and children. The King is great and strong, and if he is unjust to me, I must be meek like a saint."

Then Reynard looked at his wife and said: "Ermeline, take care of the children when I go away from home. Be very careful about my boy, Reynikin, for he is wise and cunning like me. When he grows up I think he will become famous like me. I think my little boy, Rossel, is very smart, and I love him very much. Take good care of them all and when I come back from the King I will reward you." Then Reynard said good-bye to his family and went away. Ermeline cried very much, and the young foxes howled loudly because their father was gone away, and there was no one to watch and guard the house.

When the Fox had walked a distance from his home, he stopped and spoke to Grimbard. He said: "My good friend, do not blame me because I am sad and troubled. I am afraid the

King will kill me. I have hurt and robbed all the beasts. I hurt Bruin very much. I deceived him and led him to Lanfert's yard, where the people nearly killed him. I led Tibert, the Cat, into a trap, because I wanted to kill him, and I am sorry he is not dead. I have done much harm to Chanticleer and his hens and chickens. I have had many a good dinner eating them. I have also done harm to the King and Queen, for I have told many lies about them and slandered them. I led Isgrim, the Wolf, into a trap which caught him. Then I told him I would teach him to ring bells. I tied the rope of a bell to his foot, and when he rang the bell, people came and struck him with stones and sticks. I taught him to steal fish, and the people again beat him and nearly killed him. Once I led him to a priest's house. He was very lean and hungry. I showed him a hole in the wall, and told him to creep in and steal some hams. Isgrim went in and he ate so much ham that he was very full and could not creep out of the hole again. Then I told the people that he was stealing their hams, and they beat and kicked him. One day I went to the house of a Judge. He had a nice fat hen on his plate. I stole the hen from the plate and ran. The Judge chased me, and called to the people to catch me and kill me. They ran after me, and I led them to a place in the woods where Isgrim was sleeping. I let the hen drop from my mouth near the Wolf, and then I ran and hid in a hole. When the Judge and the people came to Isgrim, they thought he had stolen the hen. They beat him with clubs and sticks till he fell down and they thought he was dead. Then a man took him and threw him into a ditch. Isgrim lay in the ditch all night, and I do not know how he came out alive. Another day, I led him to a barn and told him he would find eight cocks and hens which were very nice and fat. There was a hole near the barn. I told Isgrim to creep in at this hole and he would find the cocks and hens. The Wolf laughed heartily and put his head in the hole. He walked in a little way, and said to me: 'Reynard, you are deceiving me, for I find no chickens.' Then I said to him: 'My dear friend, the chickens have gone in farther. I ate some that were on the perch near you.' Then Isgrim went in further

and I pushed him. He fell and made a great noise. The people who were sleeping in the house heard the noise. They woke up and ran to the barn, and when they saw the Wolf they beat him and almost killed him. I have hurt and deceived the Wolf many times. I cannot remember all the wicked things I did to him. Now I have told you many of my wicked deeds, please tell me what I must do to wash away my sins and make people think me a good beast again."

Now Grimbard had read many books and was very wise. He broke a small branch from a tree. Then he said: "My dear Reynard, you must strike your body with this branch three times. Then you must put the branch on the ground and jump over it three times, but you must not bend your legs, and you must not fall. Then you must take the branch and humbly kiss it to show that you are very meek. When you have done all these things, your sins will all be washed away and you will become good again." When the Fox heard this he was very glad, and Grimbard said: "Be careful and never hurt the beasts, never steal, and never slander the King and Queen again." Reynard promised to do all this, and then they both walked on to go to the King.

After a time they came to a large house near the road. Some geese and chickens were eating near the wall of the garden. The geese and chickens were talking loudly, and Grimbard and the Fox left the road and went to hear what they were saying. When they were near the flock, Reynard saw a fat hen which was alone. He sprang and caught her by the wings, but she escaped and Reynard had only a few feathers in his mouth. Grimbard saw this and was very angry. He said: "You bad and deceitful Fox! You soon forget your promises. I cannot trust you again. Why do you act wickedly again? For one hen you would lose everything good." Reynard said: "Do not scold me, and do not think me bad. I forgot, and did not know what I was doing. I will be careful now, and will try not to steal and eat chickens again." Then they walked past a little bridge; but the Fox looked at the hen and wanted to eat her all the time. He was a fox, and stealing and eating hens was his habit and he could not resist it. But

REYNARD SAW A FAT HEN WHICH WAS ALONE

Grimbard saw that Reynard still wished to catch the hen, and he was very mad. He said: "Reynard, you are deceiving me. Why do you look slyly at the hen all the time, and look as if you wanted to eat her?" The Fox said: "My dear friend, you are mistaken. I was thinking only about the good old times when I ate many fat hens and many other good things." Grimbard said: "Perhaps you speak truly; but when I see you looking slyly and hungrily at the hen, it makes me think you are deceiving me."

Grimbard and the Fox were now walking along the road again, and they soon saw the house of the King. When the Fox saw the house, he shook with fear, for he knew that he had done many bad things.

They soon came to the court of the King, and soon all the beasts knew that Grimbard had brought Reynard, the Fox. All the beasts hastened to the King to tell him of the bad things Reynard had done to them. The Fox was much frightened, but he tried not to show it. His face was calm. He walked lightly and proudly, to make the beasts think that he was not guilty. He walked and stood before the chair on which the King sat. He bowed to the King and began to flatter him. He said: "My great and good King, on the whole earth there is no king so wise and mighty as you. May you become famous and honored in all the earth. I have always been a true friend to you, and I will be a friend to you till death. But, my good King, I know there are some bad beasts here who wish to kill me. They slander me to you; but I know you despise these envious beasts. Now there are mean beasts who flatter kings, and clowns who make them laugh. But you are wise and will not listen to my jealous enemies. I know you are good and just and will make them feel ashamed."

The King was very angry when he heard this speech. He told the Fox to stop speaking. He said: "Silence, you wicked and deceitful Fox! Reynard, I know you well; but all your cunning and all your flattering words will not help you now. Do not think you can deceive me with your flattering words. You cannot deceive me now. You vile beast! Your face is like brass. You are not ashamed. You say you love me, but I know you are full

of lies. Look at these poor beasts standing around me, and see the bloody wounds which you gave them. You are guilty, and I will show you no pity."

Reynard answered: "Mighty King, do not blame me for the bloody wounds on Bruin's head. He did not obey you. He went into a yard to steal honey, and the people saw him and beat and wounded him. How am I to blame? If I caused his wounds, why did Bruin not kill me? Why does he ask you to kill me? He is great and strong, but I am small and weak. I met Tibert, the Cat, and was a good friend to him. He was walking with me, and ran into a barn to hunt and catch mice. In the barn he was caught in a trap and lost his eyes. How am I to blame? Terrible King, I cannot speak: you will do what you wish. If you kill me, I will bear it."

While the Fox was speaking, Bellin, the Ram, and Oseway, his wife, came to tell the King about the harm Reynard had done to them. Bruin, the Bear, and all his friends, also came to tell their story. Then also came Tibert, the Cat; Kayward, the Hare; Bruel, the Goose; Baldwin, the Ass; and Hammel, the Ox. The Lynx, the Boar, the Camel, the Colt, the Kid, and the Weasel also came. Chanticleer, the Cock, and Partlet, his Hen, with all their chickens were there.

All these beasts told the King how the Fox had done much harm to them and robbed them. The Lion was sorry for the beasts, and was very angry at the Fox. Reynard was brought before the King, and asked if he could say anything to show that he should not be punished. Reynard made a long speech, and spoke very wisely and cunningly. The Lawyers were astonished at the Fox, but his wise speech did not help him. All the bad things which Reynard had done were clearly proved, and could not be doubted. He was clearly guilty and must be punished. The enemies of the Fox were also very many, and they all wanted the King to punish him. The King asked the Fox to stand up. Then he told Reynard that he was a very bad and wicked beast, and that he had disobeyed his King and broken the laws. He told him that he must be hanged by the neck till he was dead. When

Reynard heard this he hung his head and was very sad. Grimbard, the Badger, and other friends of the Fox were very sorry. They did not want to stay and see Reynard die. They bowed to the King, and went away with tears falling from their eyes.

The Lion saw that some of his good and brave beasts were sorry for the Fox. He thought to himself: "I must be very careful and not make my beasts angry. Reynard is very bad; but he is very wise and has some good in him. He has many friends. It is better for me to be wise, and not too severe."

While the King was thinking, Tibert, the Cat, said to the Bear and the Wolf: "Mr. Bruin, and Mr. Isgrim, why are you so slow? Night is near and the Fox is not hung. He is cunning and may escape from us. Many bushes and holes are near us, and if Reynard escapes and hides in them we cannot catch him again. You must hang him quickly, before the dark night comes." Isgrim said: "I am ready: the rope and the tree are near us." Then the Wolf looked sad and sighed. The Cat saw Isgrim's sad face and said: "Are you afraid to hang the Fox, or do you not like the work? But remember that Reynard caused your two sons to be hung. If you are wise, you will hang Reynard for killing your sons, and not lose any more time." Isgrim was cross, and said: "Tibert, you are angry and cannot judge right. Your anger darkens your mind as a cloud darkens the sun. If we had a good rope, we could soon hang the Fox; but we have no good rope."

Reynard had not spoken for a long time; but he now said: "Hang me quickly, and do not hurt me much. Tibert has a good strong rope; it nearly choked him at the Monk's house. He can climb trees well. Let him hang me. I do not want Isgrim and Bruin to hang me, because they are my kin. Bruin lead me, and you, Isgrim, walk behind me." Then Bruin said: "You are right, Reynard." So Bruin and Isgrim walked on with the Fox and held him by the neck. When Reynard felt how tight they held him, he was frightened and trembled. He said to them: "Why do you, who are my kin, try to hurt me? I know that my aunt, Isgrim's wife, loves me and would cry if she saw me hanged. I

cannot escape from you, but I am not afraid of your spite. Bruin and Tibert will be sorry that they hurt me. I know I must die; but death comes only once. I saw my father die, and he died quickly. I am not afraid of death, and I will die like a brave Fox."

So Isgrim and Bruin walked on each side of the Fox, and led him to the tree where he was to be hung. Tibert carried the rope and walked in front of Reynard. When they came to the tree, the King and Queen, with all the great and rich beasts, sat down to see the Fox die. Reynard was full of grief, and thought how he might escape. He thought how he could make the Lion pity him and pardon him. He thought to himself: "It is true that the King and the great beasts all hate me. I know it is right for them to hate me, because I have done much harm to them all. But I hope to live and be a good friend to them." While Reynard was thinking, the Wolf said to the Bear: "Mr. Bruin, we will now hang the Fox, and punish him for the harm he has done us."

Then Tibert made a noose in the rope, and put it around the Fox's neck. He took the other end of the rope, and climbed a tree and tied it over a limb. Isgrim brought some steps for Reynard to stand on, and Bruin held him tight so he could not escape.

When all was ready and they were going to hang Reynard, he said: "Mighty King, good Queen, and great Lords, you all came here to see me die. Before I die, I want to ask one little thing. I want to confess to you all the bad deeds I have done, and to tell you all that I am very sorry. I hope that when I am dead the beasts will pity me and not blame me for the wicked things I did. Having confessed, I can die easy and happy."

Reynard's Defense.

All the beasts were now sorry for the Fox. They asked the King to let him speak. The King consented, and then Reynard spoke. He said: "To all the beasts which I see standing around me, I have done harm. But I was not born a bad Fox. When

ISGRIM AND BRUIN WALKED ON EACH SIDE OF REYNARD,
TIBERT CARRIED THE ROPE

I was young, people thought me modest and gentle. I staid with the lambs all day, and was glad to run and play with them in the green fields. One day, when playing, I bit a lamb. The blood tasted very sweet to me, and after that I was always thirsty for blood. I went to the woods where some goats were eating grass. I saw a kid and killed and ate it. Then I grew very bold, and became more and more wicked. I killed and ate geese, hens, and everything which I could catch.

"Once, in Autumn, I met Isgrim hiding in the trunk of an old tree. He talked to me and proved that he was my kinsman. We became very good friends, but it was a sad day for me when I met him. He taught me to do wrong. We both went out to rob and kill the beasts. He stole great things, and I stole little things. He killed great and rich beasts, but I killed poor and small beasts. He always stole and killed the most. When he killed a sheep or a calf, he was so greedy that he ate all the flesh and gave me only the bones. If he caught an ox or a cow, he, his wife, and his children ate till they were full. He was not good and kind to me, and he gave me only the bones. I do not say this because I was poor and hungry. The beasts all know that I have enough silver, jewels, and money to fill ten wagons. I speak of Isgrim's unkindness to show you how mean he was to me and how bad a heart he has."

When the Lion heard the Fox speak of his great riches, he was excited and said: "Reynard, where are your great riches?" Then Reynard said: "My great King, I will tell you. It is true that I stole these riches, but I am proud that I stole them. If I had not stolen them, you would have been killed. But you are alive and safe now, and I hope you will live long."

When the Queen heard this, she was very much frightened and trembled. She said: "Reynard, what are you talking about? What do you mean?"

The Fox pretended to be very sad, and said: "O, my good Queen, I am very sorry you have asked me about this. I should be glad to die now, and I know my friends will weep for me. But, good Queen, I will confess everything, and I can prove that

all I say is true. Several of my own kin, and many other beasts, wanted to kill the King. I do not like to tell about this wicked thing, but I love the King more than all my friends."

When the Lion heard that the beasts wanted to kill him, he became very sad, and said: "Is this true? I cannot believe it."

The Fox answered: "Great King you know I must soon die. Do you think I would tell you a lie, when dying?" Then the Fox looked very sad, and the Queen pitied him. She asked the King to make all the beasts stand still and not say anything till the Fox finished telling all he knew. The Lion consented, and then Reynard said:

"My great King, I will tell you all about the wicked beasts who wanted to murder you, and I hope you will hang them all. I must tell you that my father was one day working on his farm. When digging in the ground he found a great treasure. He found much gold, silver, and jewels hid in the ground. This treasure was buried in the ground by King Ermenrich many years ago. When my father found it, he became very rich and proud. He despised all his poor friends, and would not speak to them. He became very ambitious. At length, he sent Tibert, the Cat, to see Bruin, the Bear, in the woods near Ardenne. Tibert told Bruin that my father loved him very much, and wanted to make him King. Bruin said he would like to wear the crown on his head and become King. So he went to the city of Flanders and ate and drank like a prince. Then Bruin told Grimbard to go and bring Isgrim, the Wolf, and Tibert, the Cat. These all went to a place near Ghent, and talked all night about how they could kill you, great Lion, and make the Bear King. They said they would kill you. Then they would put Bruin, the Bear, on the throne at Aix-la-Chapelle, and put the crown on his head. My father said that if you and your friends tried to keep the crown, your lands, and your treasures, he would hire many soldiers to fight you. Now I will tell you how I found out all this. It is a strange story. Once Grimbard drank too much wine and became drunk. Then he told his wife, Slopard, all about this wicked thing. He said she must not tell it to anybody. Slopard was a great friend of

my wife, Ermeline, and told her the secret. Then Ermeline, like all silly women, told me about it. But she made me swear not to tell anybody. She said she had sworn not to let anyone know about it. I was now very sad and unhappy. I was much troubled. I remembered the story of the frogs. The frogs were free and happy, but they wanted a king, and they prayed to Jupiter to send them one. Jupiter sent them a Stork, and the bird killed many of them and ate them, and troubled them very much. Then they prayed to Jupiter to help them, but he would not. When people do not like to be free, they must not cry when they are made slaves. Then I thought that if Bruin became King we would all be slaves. I was very sorry for the King, but I could not help him. I knew that the Bear was very proud and wanted to rule all the beasts. If he became King no one could help us. Then I knew that you, great King, were good and kind. I thought it would be very sad to see a cross and ugly Bear sitting on the throne of a Lion. No beast that walks in the woods is meaner than the Bear.

"Then I tried hard to defeat my father in his wicked plan to rob you of your crown. I tried to find where his great riches were hid. I knew that if he lost his riches he could not harm you. Every day and night I followed my father, and watched him in the fields and woods. One day, when I was lying on the ground, I saw him come out of a hole. He looked around to see that no one was watching him. He put sand in the place, and rubbed the ground smooth with his tail, so that no one could see his foot-prints. Then he went away. I went into the cave and found his treasures. Then I brought Ermeline, my wife, and we both worked very hard till we had taken away all these riches and hid them in the woods. We hid them where my father could not find them. While we were hiding the treasures, my father and Isgrim, the Wolf, went to see all the beasts. Isgrim said that if the beasts would make him King he would give them much money. The beasts believed them, and they soon had many soldiers to fight for them. Then my father and Isgrim went to Bruin. They told him how hard they had worked for him, and how they had been

in great danger. They told him that men in red coats, riding on fast horses, and followed by swift hounds had chased them and tried to kill them. They showed a long list of names to Bruin. The names of many friends of the Bear, the Fox, the Cat, and the Badger were in this list. When my father went to the cave and found that all his riches were stolen, he was very sad and unhappy. He became crazy. Then he tied a rope around his neck and hung himself on the branch of a tree till he was dead.

"Now I have told you how by my great wisdom I defeated this wicked plan to rob you, my King, of your crown. For doing this, I am to die to-day. Those mean beasts, Bruin and Isgrim, who tried to kill me, are much honored and respected. They despise me and are glad I must die. To help you, great Lion, I lost my father, and I cannot do more for my King than die for him."

When the Fox had stopped speaking, the King and Queen led him away from the tree where he stood. They thought he would tell them where his great riches were hid. But Reynard said: "O, my King, shall I give my money to my enemies? Shall the beasts who try to kill me, and to rob you of your crown, get all my riches? I cannot give my treasure to them, for I would feel very unhappy." Then the Queen said: "Do not be afraid, Reynard. The King will not hang you, but he will make you free and show you much honor and respect." Reynard said: "Dear Queen, if the King will do this, and believe in me, I will make him richer than any other King in the world." Then the Lion scolded the Queen, and said: "You want me to trust that cunning Fox. Do you not know that it is his habit to lie, to cheat, and to steal?" The Queen answered: "My dear husband, I think you can believe him now. He was very wicked, but he is sorry and will be good after this. He did not save his own father, nor Grimbard, who is a great friend to him. If he told a lie, he would have charged the beasts he hated." The Lion said: "Well, my good Queen, I will do what you wish, and I will let the Fox go free. But if he does wickedly, and harms any beast again, I will surely punish him. I will drive him, his wife, his children, and all his

friends out of the country." When the Fox heard this, he was very glad, but pretended to be very sad. He said: "My great and good King, it would be shameful and wicked for me to tell you lies now."

Then the King let the Fox go free, and said he was not guilty. So Reynard knelt down before the King and Queen and thanked them for their kindness to him. He said that they would soon have more riches than any King and Queen in the world. From that day, the Fox became very important, and the King and Queen honored him more than any other beast. Reynard said he would show where the treasures were hid. He said to the Lion: "My good King, you know that there is a great forest in the west part of Flanders. The forest is called Husterloe, and near it there is a brook named Crekenpit. The forest is very large, and no one comes near it. I have hid my great riches in this forest. I wish you, my King and Queen, to go there with me and find the treasures, for I cannot trust any one else. When you go to the forest, you will see two birch trees near a cave. You must go into the cave and there you will find the treasures. There you will see much money, and many jewels. You will also find the beautiful crown of King Ermenrich, which Bruin, the Bear, wanted to wear. But he did not wear it because I defeated his wicked plans. There you will find many costly stones that shine like the sun. When you hold them in your hands, remember me, and think how much Reynard loves you." The Lion said: "Reynard, you must find the riches and bring them to me. I know I cannot find them. I have heard about Paris, London, Aix-la-Chapelle, and Cologne; but I never heard about Crekenpit. I am afraid you want to fool me." Then Reynard blushed, and said: "Do you, my King, doubt me, and think I am telling you lies? I will prove that I speak truly." When he said this, the Fox told Kayward, the Hare, to come to him. Kayward was told to speak the truth, and he said: "If I die for it, I will speak the truth in all things." Reynard said to the Hare: "Do you know where Crekenpit is?" Kayward, the Hare, said: "Yes, I know where it is. I have known Crekenpit for twelve years. It is in the forest of Husterloe, a

very great and wild place. There, Sire Simony, the monk, made false money, and he and his friends became very rich." Then Reynard said: "That is enough, you may go." So the Hare went away. Then the Fox said to the Lion: "My good King, Kayward proves that I speak truly. Do you doubt me now?" The King answered: "I believe you now, Reynard, and am sorry that I doubted you. Let us go now and find the cave where your great riches are hid."

Then Reynard said: "My King, I would be very glad to go with you; but I cannot go. Listen to what I say. I hope you will not think me very bad. When Isgrim, the Wolf, wanted to become a monk, he thought he would not get enough to eat. The whole meal for six monks was too little for him. He told me this, and I pitied him, because he was my kinsman. I let him run away, and he did not become a monk. The Pope was very angry and cursed me. I must ask the Pope to forgive me. In the morning, I must go to Rome. When I arrive at Rome, I will sail across the sea and go to Palestine. I will not come to you again till my sins are all washed away, and I am good. Then I can help you a great deal." When the Lion heard this, he said: "Reynard, if the Pope has cursed you, I cannot let you stay with me. I will take Kayward, the Hare, and some other beast with me to Crekenpit. I ask you not to stay away long." The Fox said: "I will go quickly, and I will hurry night and day till I come home again." Then the King said: "You may go now, Reynard. I think you are a very good and pious Fox, and hope you will have a pleasant and safe journey."

All the Beasts do Honor to Reynard.

The King now sat on his throne, which was made of square blocks of stone. He said that every beast must stand still and not speak a word. He said that the Fox was now a great lord, whom the King and Queen greatly loved and respected. The King spoke and said: "Hear me, all lords, knights, gentlemen, and humble beasts. I have made Reynard a great lord. Truly, he

has done many very wicked things, and it was right to punish him severely. But he has this day done great good to us, and both the Queen and I think we ought to be very kind to him. So I think it is best not to hang Reynard. I make him free, forgive him for his wicked deeds, and give him his houses and lands again. I now command all the beasts to show great respect to Reynard, his wife, and all his kin. I do not want anybody to tell me bad things about Reynard again. If any beast disobeys me in this thing, I will surely kill him. I am sure the Fox is very good now, and will not do wickedly again. Early in the morning he will go to Rome to buy what will wash away his sins. Then to show that he is sorry for all the bad things he has done, he will go to Palestine."

Tisellen, the Raven, was standing on a tree and heard all this. He flew to Bruin, Isgrim, and Tibert. He said to them: "You poor foolish beasts! You have failed and are disgraced. Reynard is now a great lord and the King and Queen respect him highly. He and the King are very good friends now. He is free and has caught you in a trap." Isgrim said: "Tisellen, you are mistaken, this is not true." The Raven answered: "It is true, and you must not think that you are more cunning than the Fox."

Then the Wolf and the Raven went to the King. But the Cat did not go, because he was very much afraid. He did not think of the harm the Fox had done him. He wished to try and be a good friend to Reynard as he was a long time ago. Isgrim was not afraid of the Fox and did not want to be friendly with him. He walked proudly to the King. He was very angry and spoke crossly and rudely about the Fox, and told many bad things about him. But the King bound him and the Bear both tight and they could not run away. The King did this because the Fox had said that they wanted to kill him and steal his crown.

Reynard had very cunningly caught his enemies in a trap. He asked the Queen to give him some of the Bear's skin to make him a bag to carry his things in. Then the beasts cut off a part of the Bear's skin and gave it to the Fox. It hurt Bruin very much. Reynard had no shoes. He needed good shoes because

there were many sharp stones on the road, and they cut and hurt his feet. He said to the Queen: "Good Lady, I am your poor friend. Isgrim has a pair of very good and strong shoes. If you will give me his shoes I will pray for you every day when I go to Rome. My aunt, Herswin, has good shoes also, and, if you will give them to me, I will thank you very much. She does not need the shoes, for she does not walk out often." The Queen said: "Reynard, I know you will need good, strong shoes. Your road is full of hard and sharp stones, and you will be very tired. I will give you their shoes, and then the sharp stones will not hurt your soft feet."

Then the beasts caught Isgrim and cut the skin off his fore feet. They were very cruel to him and it pained very much. They also caught Herswin and cut the skin off her hind feet. The Fox wanted to taunt his aunt, and he said to her: "Dear aunt, I thank you very much for kindly giving me your good shoes. Your shoes will help me go to Rome. When I come home again with great riches from Rome I will give you some." Then Herswin was mad with rage and pain. She gasped and nearly choked. She said: "Reynard, you are successful now; but I hope you will one day be punished for your wicked and cruel deeds." Isgrim and Bruin did not speak. They lay silent on the ground, because their wounds hurt very much.

Before he started for Rome, Reynard put oil on his shoes, and they fitted him nicely. They fitted his feet as tightly and nicely as they fitted the feet of Isgrim and Herswin. The Fox then went to the King and Queen. He bowed to them very humbly and said: "My great King, and kind Queen, your poor friend bows humbly to you. Will you please give me my bag and my staff, and make the beasts show respect to me." Then the King called Bellin, the Ram. He told him to hang the bag, made from the Bear's skin, round Reynard's neck, and to put the staff in his right paw. When Reynard had these, he looked sadly at the King. He seemed very sorry to go away from the King. But he only pretended to be sorry, for he was very glad to go away. Then Reynard said good-bye to the King and all the beasts and

went away. He was very anxious to get away. He knew he was a great knave, and he was afraid that the King would detect him and punish him. The King said: "I am very sorry, Reynard, that you must go away from me so soon." The Fox answered: "My good King, I must go. I ought not to delay going to Rome. It is the right thing to do, and will wash away my sins."

Then the King commanded all the beasts to go on the road with Reynard a little way. But he did not tell Isgrim and Bruin to go, for their wounds were very sore. The beasts saw how brave and active the Fox was. They looked at his bag and staff, and odd shoes. They thought it very funny and laughed a good deal. But while Reynard's face was very sad, his heart was glad. He saw all his enemies walking with him to show him great honor, and he felt very proud. They were like his slaves. He was delighted to see the great King walk with him and show him respect. But he chuckled to think how easily he had fooled the King.

When they had walked on the road for some time the Fox said: "My good friends, you must not walk any farther with me. This is a lonely and dangerous road, and I do not want any harm to come to you. You have two wicked beasts bound at the King's house. If they get free perhaps they will rob the King of his crown." Reynard now stood on his hind legs and sadly said good-bye to the King again. Then he spoke to Kayward, the Hare, and Bellin, the Ram. He said to them: "My good friends, must we part so soon? Do not go away from me. I never thought you were bad. I like you very much because you are quiet and speak pleasantly to me. You are gentle, kind, and wise like me when I first became a monk many years ago. And I know you are not greedy and selfish. If you have some green leaves and a little grass you are as happy as if you had all the bread and fish in the world."

The Hare and the Ram were much pleased by these flattering words of the Fox. They were very stupid, and he easily fooled them. So they went along with him.

The End of Kayward, the Hare.

For a time, Reynard, the Hare, and the Ram walked along on the road and talked. At last, the Fox came to his own house and stopped at the door. Then he said to Bellin, the Ram: "My good friend, I want you to stand at the door for a short time. I must do a little work in the house, and wish Kayward to come in and see it."

Bellin said: "All right." Then the Fox and the Hare went into the house. Ermeline was sitting on the ground and her children were near her. She was very sad, because she thought Reynard would never come home again. When she looked at the door and saw him come in safe, she was very glad. But when she saw his staff, his bag, and his odd shoes, she was very much frightened. She said: "Dear Reynard, what has happened?" He said: "I went to see the King, and the beasts all wanted to hang me. But the King let me go free and I am going to Rome. The King gave Kayward, the Hare, to me. I am going to kill the Hare, because he was the first to tell the King bad things about me."

When Kayward heard these words, he was much alarmed. He ran to the door and tried to escape, but the Fox caught him. Kayward called loudly to the Ram to come and help him, but the Fox caught him by the neck and choked him, and he fell down dead. Then Reynard, his wife, and the young foxes ate the Hare and had a good dinner on him.

Ermeline was very curious to know all about Reynard's visit to the Lion. She said: "Reynard, I am afraid you are deceiving me. If you love me, please tell me all about your visit to the King."

Then the Fox said: "My dear Ermeline, I will tell you all about it. I talked very pleasantly to the King and Queen and I flattered them and made them feel good. The King is very covetous, and I told him that I had great riches; but you know that is not true. I told him that I loved him and the Queen very much, and would give him all my money, my gold and silver, and my

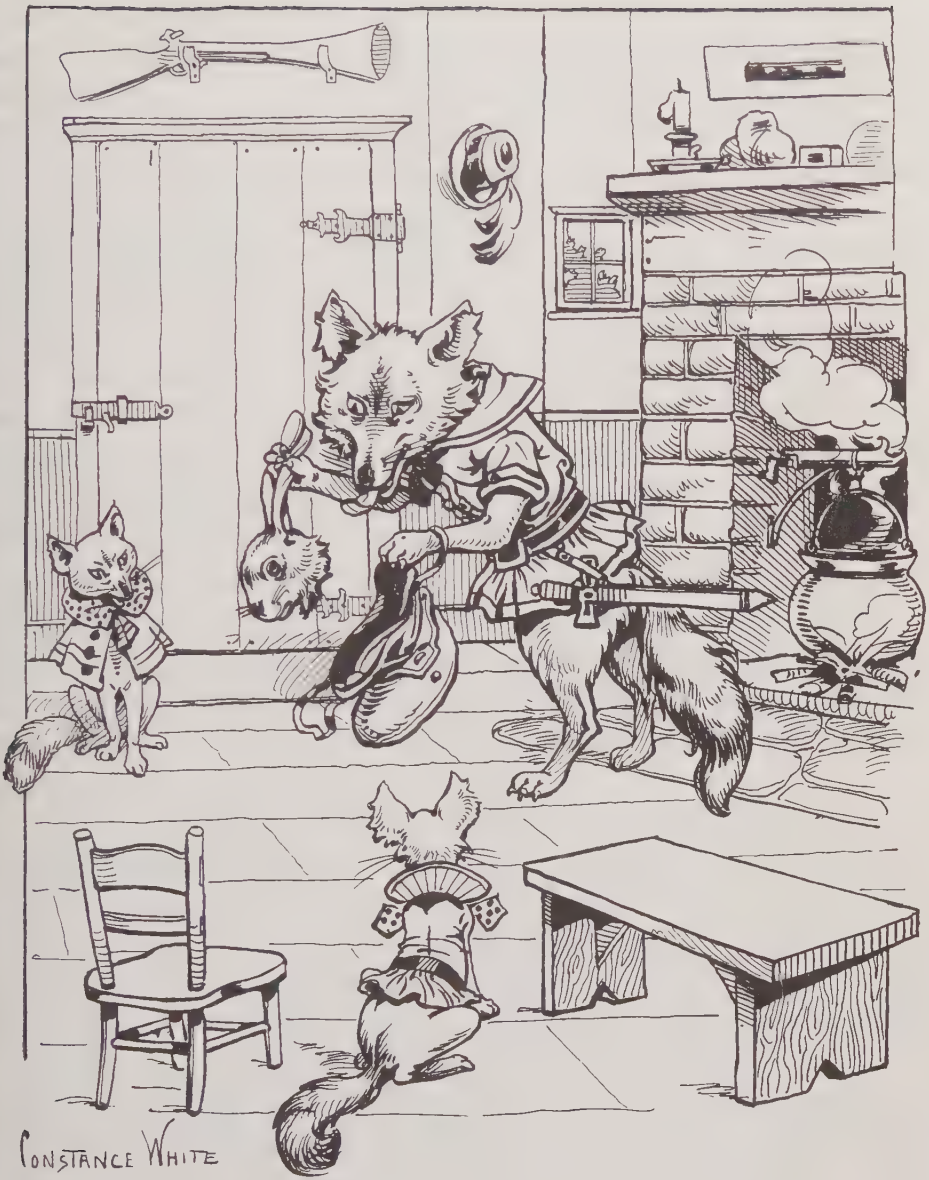
houses and lands. Now, when the King finds that I have fooled him with lies, he will be very angry and try to catch and kill me. My dear wife, we must go away from this house. We must go far away and live in the woods. We must go to a place where we can find many chickens, rabbits, geese, and ducks to eat. We will have nice clean water, clear streams, pure air, and cool shade. We will rest there and live happily. I have escaped from the Lion. I will be sure and not go near him again, so he cannot kill me with his great, sharp claws." Then Ermeline said: "But I do not want to go away to a new home. I like this house very much, and want to stay here. I have everything I want here. You know it is not right to give up our old home and all the good things we have for what may not be so good. We may be fooled and want to come back to our old home again. If the King comes here with all his beasts to catch us, we have many friends to help us. We can easily escape. I do not want to go away. I do not want to go across the sea to a new land. I think it is best for us all to stay at home." Then the Fox answered: "Ermeline, perhaps you are right and I am wrong. You must not cry, for I will stay at home with you. If the King comes to catch me I think I can escape. He is great and strong, but I am more cunning, and I think I can easily fool him again."

While Reynard and Ermeline were in the house talking, the Ram was standing near the door. He was very angry at the Fox and the Hare because they had made him wait so long. He was very tired, and at last he shouted. Reynard heard him, and came to the door and said: "Good Bellin, I am sorry I made you wait so long. I did not want to be rude to you, for I know that a gentleman is always kind and polite to all. Kayward is talking to his aunt now, and they are having a very pleasant time. He told me to tell you to walk back to the road. He says he can run much faster than you, and he will soon overtake you. His aunt Ermeline will not let him go now. She and our children love him so much, that they will feel very sad if he goes now." Bellin said: "But I think that I heard Kayward call for help." Reynard answered: "Indeed! Do you think I would hurt Kayward

in my own house? I will tell you how he made a noise. When I told my wife that I must go to Rome, she was much grieved and fainted. When Kayward saw her fall on the floor he was alarmed and cried: 'Come, Bellin, and help my aunt; she will die! she will die!' " Then the Ram said: "But I thought Kayward needed help himself." Reynard answered: "Bellin, you are very careful of Kayward, and were frightened and thought he was hurt. You know that the King told me to write two letters to him before I went away. I will give you the letters now: please carry them and give them to the King." Bellin was deceived, and said: "I will gladly carry the letters to the King; but I have no bag to put them in." The Fox said: "I will give you my bag, and you can put it round your neck. I know that the King will thank you very much for carrying the letters to him. He will reward you, because the letters are very important, and they tell about things which the King ought to know."

Then the Fox went into the house. He got his bag and put Kayward's head in it. Then he brought the bag to the Ram and hung it round his neck. He told Bellin that, if he wished the King to be his friend, he must not look in the bag, or meddle with what was in it. He told him he must not open it, but carry it to the King and give it to him. He told Bellin to tell the King that he helped to write the letters. He said the King would then be very much pleased, and would reward the Ram and show him great honor.

Bellin was much flattered, and was glad that Reynard gave him this good advice. He was stupid, and did not know that the Fox was fooling him. He said: "You are very good and kind to me, Reynard. Some day I will reward you. The King will think me very wise when he finds that I can write so well. I see that many beasts who know no more than I do succeed well at the King's court. They pretend to be very wise and they deceive people. I will go now, but Kayward must come with me." Reynard said: "Let Kayward stay a little longer. I know his aunt does not want him to go now. Also, I want to talk to Kayward,



HE GOT HIS BAG AND PUT KAYWARD'S HEAD IN IT

for there are some things which I must tell him. He will go soon, and will overtake you on the road."

Then Bellin said good-bye to the Fox and started on his way home. He reached home at noon, and found the King and all the beasts together. When the King saw the Ram coming with Reynard's bag round his neck, he was much surprised and opened his eyes wide. He said: "Bellin, where do you come from, and why have you Reynard's bag? Is the Fox dead?" The Ram said: "Great King, I walked with the Fox to his house. I staid outside at the door, and in a little while Reynard came out to me and told me I must bring a very important letter to you. He put the letter in this bag and gave it to me. I helped to write the letter, and I think you will be pleased with it." The King then said: "Give the bag to Bocart, and let him read the letter." Bocart was very wise and helped the King read and write letters. So Bocart and Tibert, the Cat, took the bag off Bellin's neck. They opened the bag, but they found no letters. They found only the bloody head of Kayward, the Hare. They were much surprised and grieved. They said: "Great King, we find no letters; we find only the head of Kayward. Some wicked beast has murdered him." Then they held up the head of Kayward for the King and all the beasts to see.

When the King saw the bloody head of Kayward, he was very sad, and said: "I am very sorry that I believed that wicked and deceitful Fox." He was very much grieved and ashamed. He and the Queen hung their heads. Then Fyrapel, the Leopard, said to the Lion: "Why is the King sad? All the land and all the beasts are yours." The King said: "That wicked and cunning Fox has fooled me. I believed his lying words and was unjust to my best friends and good beasts. I have unjustly punished some of my wisest and bravest lords. I have hurt strong Bruin and brave Isgrim, and I feel very much ashamed. I have lost my good name. But I do not think I was to blame. The Queen pitied the Fox when he was in trouble. She talked to me and coaxed me till I did wrong. As long as I live I shall be sorry for all this." The Leopard said: "Do not say that, great King.

You can give the beasts gifts, and then they will forget that you were unjust to them. Gifts are the best thing to cure all such hurts. The Bear has lost his skin, and the Wolf and his wife, Herswin, have lost their shoes. But you can give them the flesh and riches of Bellin, the Ram, because he murdered Kayward. We will all go and help you take Reynard's strong fort. We will catch him and hang him to a tree at once. We will not take him to court and try him. We will not let him even have a priest when he dies. He is a very bad and deceitful Fox."

Reynard is Again in Disgrace.

The King said he thought the Leopard was right. So Fryapel quickly went to the place where the Bear and the Wolf were bound. He said to them: "My friends, the King told me to unbind you, and let you go free. He sends his love to you, and is very sorry that he was so unjust to you. He will try to be just to you hereafter. He gives you Bellin, the Ram, and all his sheep, both great and small. All their riches and all their lands he gives to you. From this day, he gives them to you and your children to keep always for your own. When you find them in the woods or fields, or on the hills, you may hunt and catch them. You may wound them, kill them, and eat them."

So the wise Leopard made Bruin and the Wolf to be good friends with the King again. What the Lion gave them then, they still keep. The Wolf and the sheep have always been at war. Then the Bear and the Wolf killed Bellin, the Ram, and ate him. The Lion was glad, and made a great feast. The beasts were all to come and eat, drink, and be merry for twelve days. The Lion made the feast because the Wolf and the Bear were at peace with him again.

The beasts heard about the great feast and they all came to it. They were very merry and happy, and they sang and danced. They had gay music from drums and fifes, from lutes and harps. They wore masks, and played games. There was plenty of meat to eat, and the beasts ate all they wanted. All the

THE DECEITFUL FOX SUDDENLY CAUGHT HER HEAD IN HIS MOUTH AND BIT IT OFF

beasts, both great and small, came to the feast, and all the birds were there. Only the Fox staid away. He was watching in the woods to catch and kill birds and beasts. He thought it best to hide himself.

On the eighth day of the feast, Laprel, the Rabbit, came to the King and Queen. While they were eating dinner he spoke sadly to the King, but so loud that all the beasts heard him. He said: "Great King, please hear my sad story. Yesterday I was walking past the house of the Fox at Malepardus. Reynard stood at the gate and he wore a monk's hood. I thought that he would not hurt me, but would let me come to the feast. When he saw me, he came to meet me. He was counting his beads. I said 'Good-morning' to him, but he did not answer a word, but suddenly struck me in the eye with his right foot. He struck me very hard and I reeled. I feel the pain now. He caught me and tried to hold me, but I suddenly jumped and got away from him and escaped. I lost one ear, and have four great cuts from his sharp claws on my head. The blood is running now from the cuts. Reynard nearly killed me; but I was frightened and ran away so fast that he could not catch me. Now, great King, I ask you to pity me, and punish this wicked Fox. He is no friend to you. If you let him go free, he will kill and rob all the beasts. No beast is safe from this bad Fox."

When the Rabbit stopped speaking, Corbant, the Rook, flew to the King and stood before him. He said: "Great King, hear my sad story. This morning my wife, Sharpbeak, and I went to play on the grass in a field. We saw Reynard, the Fox, lying in the field like one dead. His eyes were swollen, his mouth was wide open, and his tongue hung out. We were surprised and went to look at his dead body; for we thought him dead. My poor wife went and put her ear near his mouth. She wanted to see if Reynard breathed and was alive. But the deceitful Fox suddenly caught her head in his mouth and bit it off. I was much grieved and cried out. Then Reynard jumped for me and nearly caught me. I flew to a tree and sat there. I saw him eat my dear wife. He ate every piece of flesh and bone, leaving only the feathers.

If he had caught me he would have eaten me also. He is greedy, and is never full. At last he went away. Then I flew from the tree and gathered a few feathers. Here they are for you to see. I am afraid of the Fox. I would not go near him for all the gold in the world. Please kill the Fox. He breaks all your laws, and if you let him live, no beast is safe."

When the King heard the Rabbit and the Rook tell about these bad deeds of the Fox, he was very angry. His eyes were like fire, and he roared terribly. All the beasts shook with fear. He said: "I swear, this wicked Fox shall die. I will not let him deceive me with his lies again. Reynard told me he would go to Rome. He said that then he would cross the sea and go to Palestine. I gave him a bag and staff and all the things he asked for. But the Queen was to blame for this. I was right, but I did wrong to listen to a foolish woman who coaxed me. I now swear that I will destroy the Fox. I will punish him terribly. The good beasts will be glad, and the bad beasts will quake with fear." Then the King said he wanted all the wise beasts to help him, and to tell him how to catch the Fox and punish him.

Isgrim, the Wolf, and Bruin, the Bear, were very glad to hear the King swear that he would kill the Fox. They did not say anything. But the Queen bowed to the King and said: "Great King, a wise man will not believe anything till he knows all about it. And he will not swear to do a thing till he knows he is right. He must not listen to all the bad things that are said about people. If he listens to bad things about a person, he must also listen to the good things that are said about him. Then he can be just. I know I have been wrong. Perhaps Reynard did not do the bad things said of him; but perhaps he did do them. If he did do them, you may bind him, or you may kill him. But when you punish him you must obey the law, and punish only as the law allows."

Then Fyrapel, the Leopard, stood up and said: "Great King, the Queen is right and speaks wisely. We must obey the law. Let us tell the Fox to come to court again, for the last time. If he will not come before the feast ends, and show you that he is

innocent, or ask pardon, you may bind or kill him. This is the law."

Then Isgrim, the Wolf, said: "Mr. Fyrapel, we all think you are right. If the King likes it, we will do as you say. The Fox told the King about a great heap of riches hid at Crekenpit in Husterloe. That story was a great black lie. Since the world was made, so black a lie was never told. Reynard wanted the King to kill me and the Bear. He wanted to be free so he could kill the beasts and rob and steal again."

The king then said: "The Fox is a very wicked beast. I swear I will not call him again. Now I will ask all the beasts who love me and wish me to be their King, to come here in six days. They must all bring bows, guns, swords, and spears. Let some walk, and let some ride on horses. With all these brave soldiers I will go to Malepardus. I will take his strong fort and destroy it, and I will catch the Fox. Reynard, his wife, his children, and every fox we find must die. We will not leave one fox alive in the world."

Grimbard Tells Reynard of His Danger.

When Grimbard the Badger, heard these words, he felt very sorry. He quietly left the other beasts, and ran very fast through the woods and fields till he came to Malepardus. While he was running, he said to himself: "My poor friend, Reynard, must die. I am very sorry for him. He is very wise, and can help his friends when they are in trouble. With his cunning words he can please and fool all the beasts. But I am afraid no one can save him now, and he must die."

Grimbard soon came to the Fox's house. As he was approaching the house, he saw Reynard standing at the gate. Reynard saluted him and said: "I am very glad to see you, my good friend. I love you better than all my kin. What news have you? How are the King and Queen?"

Grimbard answered: "I bring bad news for you, I am sorry to say. The King says you must die. Your good name, your money, and your lands are all lost. The King is coming here with

many soldiers to take your fort and to kill you and all your kin. Isgrim and Bruin are much honored now. The King loves and respects them much. You must now be very cunning. The beasts have told the King about your bad deeds. They have told him that you steal and kill. Also, Laprel, the Rabbit, and Corbant, the Rook, have told him about the bad things you did to them. You must die a shameful and painful death. I am sure I do not know how you can escape."

Reynard said: "Pshaw! do not be frightened and troubled about me. Let us feel cheerful and happy. The King and all his beasts may try to kill me, but I am not afraid of them. They are all very stupid. They can talk much and tire their weak brains thinking how to kill me, but they can do little. The King and his beasts need me very much, because I am so wise and clever. There is no doubt about this. So, my dear friend, come into my house and have some supper. I have two very nice fat birds. Come in; my wife, Ermeline, will be glad to see you. But you must not tell her that the King wants to kill us. She is weak and, if you tell her, it will frighten her and make her very sick. We will eat supper now, and in the morning I will go with you to the King. If the King lets me speak to him, I shall tell him some bad things about the beasts, and make them ashamed and mad." Grimbard answered: "You can speak to the King, and say anything you wish. The Queen and the Leopard were kind to you, and asked the King to let you speak." Reynard said: "I am very glad. I do not care for these envious beasts. I am a great magician, and I will make them all stand still and be silent."

Then Reynard and Grimbard walked into the house. Ermeline rose from her seat and saluted Grimbard and Grimbard bowed to her. Soon the two fat birds were put on the table, and the Fox and the Badger had a good supper. When supper was over, Reynard said to Grimbard: "My friend, how do you like my sons, Rossel and Reynardine? I am very proud of them. I tell you they are learning very fast. A few days ago Rossel, for the first time, caught a young hen, and Reynardine killed a goose. They both know how to fool wild ducks and catch them. They are

clever, and can catch many other birds. I cannot let my sons go far away from home now. I must first teach them how to smell traps and avoid them. I must also tell them how to avoid the hounds and men who hunt foxes. My sons are very clever and good foxes. They are like me in face, form, and cleverness. They can deceive and cheat, and they can smile and kill. This is the business of the Fox, and in this they are smart. No one can beat them." Grimbard answered: "My dear friend, it is right for you to feel proud of your clever children. I am glad that I am kin to you." The Fox then said: "I thank you, my dear friend; but we will not talk any more to-night. I know you have walked a long way and are very tired. So you must go to bed now and rest." Then all went to bed and slept soundly, except the Fox.

Reynard was awake all night thinking how he should speak to the King and deceive him again. In the morning, when the sun shone on the tops of the hills, Reynard went to Grimbard and woke him. Then they made ready to go to the King. Reynard said good-bye to his wife and children. He said to them: "My dear wife and children, you must not cry because I am going away. I must go to the King with my friend, Grimbard. Take good care of the house, and be very watchful. I will fool my enemies, and soon come home to you again." Ermeline said: "Reynard, what makes you do this foolish thing? When you went to see the King the last time, you were nearly hanged. Will you go again, and let them hang you now?" The Fox answered: "Dear wife, in this world we never know what will happen. Evil may happen to us. Do not feel troubled about me. I must go. I hope to come back to you in five days. Farewell."

Then Reynard and Grimbard went on their way to the King. While they were walking through the green fields, the Fox said: "My dear friend, Grimbard, I will tell you of some of the wicked things I have done. Then you will know how to help me when I stand before the King. You know that I got the Bear's skin torn off to make my bag. Through me the Wolf and his wife lost their shoes. I told a lie to the King to please him and make him kind to me. I told him that the Bear and the Wolf wanted to kill him,

and rule all the beasts, which was not true. I also told him a lie when I said there was a great heap of treasures hid in the forest of Husterloe. I killed Kayward and deceived Bellin. I hurt the Rabbit and also killed Sharpbeak, the Rook's wife. Through me the Wolf got a bad wound on his head. One day I met him in a meadow and talked to him. We saw a mare eating grass. A nice fat colt was playing near her. The Wolf was very lean and hungry, and he told me to go to the mare, and ask her if she would sell her colt. I spoke to the mare. Then I told the Wolf that, if he wished to know how much the colt would cost, he must go and read some words that were on the mare's hind foot. I told him that he was a very wise beast, and could read them easily. Now, new and heavy iron shoes had just been put on the mare's feet. The shoes were full of nails with large, sharp heads. Silly Isgrim then went up to the mare and tried to look at her hind feet. But the mare kicked him on the head. He rolled on the grass in great pain and then fainted. Then I saw the mare and her colt run away. I saw the Wolf lying on the grass faint and all red with blood. When he recovered, he howled like a dog. I went up to him and said: 'Isgrim, did you eat too much of the colt? I think you were very greedy and unkind not to give me some. I think you have eaten too much and have slept too long. Tell me what you saw on the mare's foot. I would like to know.' The Wolf said: 'Oh! Reynard, do not laugh at me. I am very much hurt and in great trouble. The wicked mare had an iron shoe full of sharp nails on her hind foot. I thought the nails were words, and tried to look at them and read them. But the mare kicked me on the head, and I think my head is broken.' Then I said: 'Dear friend, do you speak truly? I thought you were one of the wisest beasts in the country. Now I see that people who know a good deal are sometimes the most foolish. Poor men often have clearer heads and act more wisely. Clerks often work with their brains too much and think only about their books till they become dull.' So I laughed at the poor Wolf and made fun of him till he wished himself dead. Now I have confessed to you, Grimbard, and feel

better. I will now meet the King, and my enemies can do me no harm."

Grimbard said: "Truly you have been very bad and done many wicked things. The evil you have done cannot be helped now. I hope you will feel sorry and do right, if you escape this time. You have insulted the King. You first killed Kayward, then you put his head in the bag, and sent it to him. Besides this you have told so many lies, that I am afraid that this time you will surely be punished."

Thus Grimbard and the Fox talked till they came to the King. The Fox appeared gay and cheerful, but he was only pretending. He felt very much frightened and sad, but he would not show it. He walked up to the King coolly and calmly. Grimbard came to him and whispered in his ear: "Be not afraid; be cheerful, for all happens well with the brave." Reynard answered: "Good friend, you speak truly, and your advice is good." So Reynard walked among the beasts and frowned at them. He showed them that he was not afraid and did not care for them. He saw many of his own kin, and he knew that some of them loved him, and some hated him. When he came to the King, he kneeled down and began a long speech.

Reynard Tries to Explain to the King.

Reynard said: "My great King and good Queen, I salute you. May you judge what is right and what is wrong. In this world, lies often appear like the truth, and the face shows not what the heart feels. Great King, I work hard from morning till night in your service. I wish you knew it. Because I am so useful to you, some beasts are envious. They wish to take my place from me, and to make you unkind to me. I love my King a great deal, and I can only wish that the beasts who try to rob me of my good name and make you unkind to me may feel ashamed. I know that my King and Queen are wise and can soon find out the truth. I know your minds are clear to see, and your hearts just, so that you will judge me rightly. My King, before I leave you,

all will know that I do not flatter and tell lies. I will hold up my head, be bold, and keep my good name."

When the beasts heard the Fox speak so boldly to the King, they were surprised. But the Lion smiled proudly and said: "Reynard, I see you are still a cunning fellow. I know you are very clever at deceit. You can talk well and make wicked things seem right and good. Flattering words will not help you out of your trouble this time. I am afraid your proud heart will be humbled to-day; for you must die. I will not scold you, but I will not let you live. There is a wise saying that 'The jug that goes often to the well is broken at last.' Thus your many wicked deeds have at last brought trouble upon you."

Reynard was much frightened at these words from the King. He wished to escape, but could not. He thought to himself: "If I must die, I will die boldly and show no fear." He answered the King saying: "Good King, it is just for you to hear what I wish to say. If my bad deeds are even worse than the beasts say, still I have the right to speak. The law gives me that right. Long ago I helped you, and I can help you now. When the other beasts left you and ran away from you, I staid with you to help you. Here I see many of my own kin who do not care for me. They wish to kill me and take from you one of your best friends. If I were as bad as the beasts say, do you think I would have come here? No, my King, I would not have dared to come. I know that I am not bad, but can look my worst enemies in the face. When Grimbard, one of my own kin, told me the news, I was nearly crazy. I was going to Rome, and could not come here at the time. When walking on the road, I met my friend Martin, the Ape. He has read much for many years, and knows more than most people. When he saw that I was sad, he said: 'Dear Reynard, why are you so sad? Trouble is easy to bear when your friends share it.' Then I said: 'Dear Ape, you speak truly. I am in great trouble. The Rabbit, which I thought a good friend to me, tells false stories about me to the King. Yesterday he came to my house and told me he had no food, and was weak and faint. So I gave him a loaf of bread and some nice cheese. Before the

Rabbit finished his meal, my young son Rossel came in. He was hungry, and said he would eat what the Rabbit had left on the table. But the Rabbit was angry and struck Rossel in the mouth, so he fell down on the floor in a faint. When Reynardine, my other son, saw this, he caught the Rabbit and tried to kill him. Then I whipped Reynardine, to teach him that he must love those who do him harm. I told him that two wrongs did not make a right. If I had not been at home, Reynardine would have killed the Rabbit. Then Laprel, the Rabbit, ran to the King and told him that I had tried to kill him. So being kind to others has brought trouble upon me. It is the old story of the Horse and the Snake. He who does you harm, does not love you. Next Corbant, the Rook, whose screams made my head ache, flew to my house. I said: 'Why do you fly so fast and make a great noise?' He said: 'My wife is dead.' I said: 'How did she die?' He answered: 'She found a dead hare lying in the field and ate too much of it. It made her sick and she died.' Then Corbant flew away and said not another word. I was surprised. Now Corbant says that I killed his wife. How could I kill her? Proving too much proves nothing. She flies in the air, but I walk on the ground. So, dear Ape, you see that I am blamed for bad deeds which I do not do. But it may all be for the best, so I will not be angry.' Then the Ape said to me: 'My dear friend, you must go to the King and show him that you did not do these wicked things.' Then I said: 'I cannot go to the King now. I am going to the Pope to have all my sins forgiven. I wish I could go to the King, for I could then talk to him and show him that I was not bad. I would save my good name, and all my enemies would feel ashamed. The harm they wished to do me would then come upon them.' The Ape then said: 'Friend, do not feel troubled. I know the road to Rome very well. I will go there and get a letter from the Pope pardoning all your sins. I have many friends who will help me. I know that those who bring gifts get what they want. Money will buy anything from the Pope. The law will not listen to those who have no gold; so I will take much gold with me. Truly, when one is in trouble, gold is the best friend.

Now do not feel troubled, but go to the King quickly and tell him your story.'

"Great King, when the Ape said this, I was very glad. So I determined to come here and speak for myself. Let any beast here stand up and prove anything bad against me. Let him prove it, as the law says, by one or two witnesses. If he cannot do this, then let him meet me and fight. Let us fight till one is killed. Great King, give me only one day and, when I have killed my enemy, I shall prove that I am innocent."

When Reynard thus looked and spoke so boldly, all the beasts were surprised and a little afraid. The Rabbit and the Rook were frightened. They were afraid to speak and quietly went away. When they were far away in the fields, they said: "This wicked Fox is so clever at telling lies, that he makes the truth seem false. He can prove that black is white. If he wanted to, he could prove that two times four are twelve. We know this, but the other beasts do not know it. So we had best go away and not fight with one who can easily beat us." So the Rabbit and the Rook went away in haste.

When these two had gone away, Isgrim and Bruin bowed their heads in grief. The King said: "If any of the beasts want to prove things against the Fox, let him stand up and he shall be heard. For days we have heard many bad things about him; but to-day we hear nothing. Here stands the Fox; let him now speak." Reynard then said: "When those they wish to harm are far away, enemies are bold; when near, they are afraid. You can see this in the Rabbit and the Rook, for both have gone away. But I do not care. You wish them to be at peace with me. I would have it so, for I could not hate those who do me harm, and I do not wish to harm them. I leave you, my King, to judge rightly." The King said: "Reynard, you speak well, but I think you only pretend to be sorry." The Fox said: "It is not so." The King said: "No, but you did one very bad thing. When I let you go free, you promised to go to Rome, and then cross the seas to Palestine. I gave you a bag and staff and all you needed to help you. Then you insulted me by killing Kayward, the Hare,

and sending back to me his head in the bag. This is a very wicked thing—you could have done nothing worse. You cannot deny this, for Bellin, the Ram, told us about it when he died. Like him you shall surely die. Truly you will never again run in the fields."

When the King told him he must die, Reynard trembled with fear and could not speak. His face grew pale, and he looked sadly at his kin standing around him. But not one would help him in his trouble. Then the King said to him: "You deceitful mean beast, why are you now dumb? Is your throat hoarse, or have you a bad cold?" But the Fox only looked sad and sighed. The beasts were all sorry for him, except the Bear and the Wolf, who were glad to see him humbled and to know that he was to be surely punished at last.

Rukenaw, the Ape, Pleads for Reynard.

When Rukenaw, the Ape, who was Reynard's aunt, saw him in trouble, she cried. It was a good thing for Reynard that she was with him now. She was very wise and clever, and spoke to the King for him.

She bowed very politely and gracefully to the King. Then she said: "My King, you sit here to judge the beasts. You must not be angry and rash; for then you may often do unjust things. I have read much, and I think I know more about the law than some other beasts who wear silk gowns and sit on the judges' seat. When I visited the Pope, I was given a nice straw bed. The other beasts lay on the hard, cold ground. This shows how much I was respected. I also talked much. All liked to listen to me, for I never say foolish things. When I speak about a thing, I tell all I know about it. A wise man in Greece once said that Kings must be just, and they must be as just to poor men as to rich men. I wish each beast to know this. The best men may fail; no one is so good that he cannot do wrong sometimes. All men do wicked things sometimes. We cannot pardon those who do wickedly all the time, and become worse and worse. When one falls often and succeeds at last, we praise him. I wish some one would think of

this. Then you would not be so angry at Reynard; you would show a little kindness to him. You all know that his father and grandfather were much respected. They ruled with the King, and were more powerful than Bruin and Isgrim with all their friends. Bruin and Isgrim never spoke as wisely or acted as bravely as Reynard. They do not know how to rule the beasts. They cannot help the King with wise words. They are ignorant beasts, for they do not know how to read and write. The King is now often in trouble and makes mistakes, because wise Reynard is not with him to help him. When bad and wicked beasts rule, all the good and wise beasts are driven away. We live in bad times; I am afraid we will all have much trouble."

The King answered: "Dame Rukenaw, if the Fox had harmed you, as he has harmed other beasts, you would not say these things. I must punish him for his bad deeds. He is very bold in breaking my laws. You have heard of the very wicked things he does. He steals, kills good beasts that never harm him, and disobeys me. I am surprised to hear you try to help him, and make him seem to be less wicked. He is bad from his head to his feet—there is no good in him. Examine him carefully and try him, and you will find that his heart is black and wicked. His heart is like the Dead Sea apples. They look bright and sweet, but when you eat them they become ashes. No friend, and not one of his own kin, speaks a good word to help him. I would like to hear if Reynard has ever been good and kind to any one. I would like to know if he has not smiled at others only to hurt them and make them weep."

Then the Ape said: "Good King, I have loved Reynard a long time. I know he did one great and good thing. You saw it, but it was long ago, and you have forgotten it. I will tell you about it. Two years ago, a man and a snake came to you. They disputed about the law, and wished you to judge, and decide which was right. The snake had crawled through a fence, and his neck was caught in a trap. He could not escape. The man was walking near the fence, and saw the snake. The snake asked the man to help him and free him from the trap. The man was very kind, and pitied the mean snake. The man said: 'If you will not hurt

me with your teeth or sting me, I will help you. Will you swear this?' The snake swore he would not harm the man. Then the man opened the trap and saved the snake. They then travelled together a long time.

"After a while the snake became hungry, and sprang at the man to kill and eat him. The man jumped away, and said: 'Wicked snake, have you forgotten your oath? Why do you try to kill me?' The snake said: 'No, I have not forgotten my oath, but it is right for me to kill you. I can kill you and not break the law, because hunger is stronger than the law.' Then the man said: 'I cannot believe it. Do not kill me until we meet some wise person to judge and decide about this.' The snake consented. Then both went on the road till they met Tisellen, the Raven. When Tisellen heard them, he said it was right for the snake to kill and eat the man. But Tisellen told the snake that he must give him part of the man to eat also. Then the man said: 'One who lives by stealing cannot judge right. He who judges must know both the law and the right. The Raven is not just, but is very selfish.' Then they walked on the road until they met the Bear and the Wolf. When the Bear and the Wolf heard the story, they said the snake was right. Then the snake hissed at the man and tried to catch him, but he jumped aside. The man said to the snake: 'You do me wrong to try to kill me.' The snake said: 'Have not the beasts twice judged that I am right?' The man said: 'Yes, but those who kill do not think it is wicked. They cannot judge rightly. Now let us go to the King and let him judge. If the King says you are right, you may kill me.' So the man and the snake came to you, great King, and told their story. The wise beasts read the law. Some talked for the man, and some talked for the snake. The wise beasts were all much confused, and could not decide what the law was. They all knew the man was kind. They knew the snake had sworn not to hurt him. They knew the snake was very hungry when he tried to kill the man. All these things, great King, troubled you much. You saw that the man was sad, and the snake was hungry. The man was kind, the snake was mean and treacherous. You were sorry for the

man, but you did not know what to do. All the beasts were confused by the lawyers, and not one could judge.

"At last, when you saw that no one could decide about the law, you called Reynard. He was then the wisest and best helper of the King, and all believed in him. He told you that he could not judge then. He said he must know more about it. He said that if he saw the snake in the trap, and knew just how it was when the man found him, he could judge rightly. You, great King, thought the Fox was right, and praised him. Then the man and the snake went to the fence where the trap was, and Reynard put the snake's neck in the trap again. Then you asked Reynard how he would judge. Then the Fox said: 'Great King, now we see the snake and the man as they were when they first met. If the man will now believe the snake's oath, and help him again, he can do so. But if he thinks he cannot trust the snake, let him go away and leave the snake in the trap as he found it.' Then, great King, you praised the Fox for his great wisdom. The Bear and the Wolf never did anything like this. They can howl, scold, steal, rob, and eat good things, but if the Fox kills a chicken they say he must be put to death. They are not afraid to kill cows, sheep, and all the beasts they can catch. The Bear and the Wolf and others are the fools of our time. They pull down towns and forts; they trample the fields and kill the farmers. They like to burn houses to warm their hands at the blaze. But Reynard and all his kin have always worked for the King and tried to help him. They have done a great deal for the King and his beasts. The Fox gets no thanks now, but he still tries to help the King. But I hope that after a time you will all know that Reynard is great and good, and that you will all love and praise him. My King, you say that all his friends and kin have left him. If anybody else had said that Reynard had no friends you would have known that they were mistaken. But the King can say what he pleases, and I will not doubt him. If any beast should say that the King spoke falsely, Reynard and I would fight him. Great King, remember that we are proud, and our fathers were proud. Reynard's friends think a great deal of him, and many would die to help

him. I am a kinswoman of Reynard, and I would die for him gladly. I have three strong and brave children, and I love them dearly, but I would let them risk death to help Reynard. Bitelas is my youngest son, and he is quick and sharp. My other son is Fairlimb, and my third child is a girl and her name is Hartnet." Then Rukenaw said: "Come, my dear children, and stand near your good friend, Reynard, and let all his friends come and stand near him, and let us ask the King to be just and kind to him."

Then many beasts came. The Squirrel and the Ferret came, for these, like the Fox, love to eat birds. Then the Otter and more than twenty other beasts came. Next came Arrot, the Weasel, and two of her kin. Baldwin, the Ass, Grimbard, the Badger, and the Beaver, and many others came and stood around Reynard. They all loved the Fox, and were very sorry for him. Then Rukenaw said: "My good King, now you see that my kinsman, Reynard, has many friends who love and respect him. They are also good and true friends to you, our King. We all ask you to be kind and just to Reynard. If he does not show that the bad things his enemies say about him are false, we will never say anything again. If he is guilty we will let him be punished, and we will not pity him."

The Queen then said to Rukenaw: "I told the King all this a day or two ago, but he was very angry and would not listen to me." Then the Leopard spoke up and said: "Great King, you must judge with care, and not hastily or in anger. To rule without the law is cruel."

The King answered: "You are right, but when Reynard mocked and scorned me by killing Kayward, and doing some other bad things, I was very angry. Perhaps I did not judge right. Let the Fox speak now and say what he wishes. If he can show that the beasts accuse him falsely, I will set him free. I am willing to do this to please the many friends who love me and respect me as their King."

When the Fox heard this he was very glad. He thought to himself: "Thanks to you, my dear aunt Rukenaw. You have been very good and kind to me. You have helped me a good deal. I

had no hope, and thought I must surely die. I think I can escape now and live. I must speak cunning words to-day, and I shall confuse and trouble my enemies."

Reynard Tells the King of the Rich Gems He Said He Had Sent to Him.

Then Reynard said: "My good King, is poor Kayward dead? Where is Bellin, the Ram? When he came back to you, what did he bring? I gave him three rich and rare gems for you. I sent the best one to you, and the other two to the Queen." The King answered: "I did not get the gems. I got only the head of poor Kayward all covered with blood. I put Bellin, the Ram, to death, because he said he had helped kill Kayward." Reynard then said: "Is this true? Oh, my troubles are great; I wish I had never been born. The three gems are now lost, and there are no others as beautiful and costly in the world. My wife will be very sorry, and scold me because I lost the gems."

Then Rukenaw said: "Dear Reynard, do not grieve for the gems. Tell us what they were like: perhaps we can find them. We will search every place till we find them." Reynard answered: "Dear aunt, you are wrong. He who has the gems will not sell them for a whole kingdom. They are very rare, and no gold can buy them. But your words comfort me a little. We live in evil times. We cannot trust any one, because the bad look like the good." Then the deceitful Fox looked very sad, and sighed. He said: "My friends and my kin, I want you all to hear me. I will now tell you about the rich gems which some one stole from me and the King. The first gem was a beautiful gold ring. On it were some strange signs in blue and black. They were a charm of three words. I could not understand the words, but Rabbi Abriou, who lives in Trent, knew them. He told me that they were three mighty and wonderful names. He said that only Magicians could read them. If any person wore these names, nothing could hurt him. Storms of wind and lightning from the clouds could not kill him. Fire could not burn him, cold could

not freeze him, and Magicians' charms could not harm him. In the ring were three precious stones. One stone was red like fire. At night it shone brightly, like the sun at noon. Another stone was clear and white, and it was very hard and smooth. A very skilful man polished it. It was a wonderful stone. It was useful to cure all bruises, sprains, and aches. If a person ate too much and became very sick, or took poison, this stone would make him well again. The other stone was green like grass, and had red and blue spots on it. This stone would guard a person from all his enemies. If he went to war, his enemies could not kill him; and if he staid at home, treacherous men could not harm him. I thought so wonderful and rich a ring was too good for a poor Fox like me. So I sent it to you, my King, because I loved you.

"I found this ring, with a comb and mirror, in my father's desk. My wife wanted to keep the mirror and the comb. They were very rich gems, and I sent them both to the Queen because she was kind to me. I cannot tell you all about this wonderful comb. It was made from the bone of a very strong beast, called the Panthera. The Panthera lives far away in the East. His color is brighter and more beautiful than the rainbow. He also smells very sweet. If a sick person smells this animal, he will become well and strong again. The animal is so good and beautiful that all the other beasts follow him, to look at him. The Panthera has one broad, thin bone. When he dies, this bone becomes full of wonderful charms. The bone is lighter than a feather, but fire cannot burn it. Neither air, earth, nor water can hurt it. If a person smells this bone, he will think that nothing smells better. If he is weak, the bone makes him strong. If he is dull or sad, the bone will make him glad, and he will never feel troubled again. The comb is very white and shining, and its teeth are straight and smooth. The comb is blue and black also. On it is written the story of Venus, Juno, and Pallas. The letters are faint blue, like bright pearl. The story tells how Venus, Juno, and Pallas quarrelled for a golden apple on Mount Ida. They asked a young man named Paris to judge which of them was the most beautiful woman. Paris was on the hills taking care of his

sheep. The goddesses came to him and put the apple of gold in his hand. They told him he must give it to the one he thought the most beautiful.

"Juno said that if he gave the apple to her, she would give him great riches. Pallas said that if he gave the apple to her, she would make him the wisest man in the world, and help him conquer all his enemies. Then Venus spoke to Paris. She told him that he was rich and wise, and did not need more. She said she knew that he was the son of Priam. His father, Priam, and his brother, Hector, were mighty men and Kings of Asia. They lived in the great city of Troy. When they should die, Paris would become King. Then Venus told him to give the apple to her. She said she would give him the best thing in the world. She promised to give him the most beautiful woman in the world for a wife. She said he would then be richer and wiser than all other men. She said a beautiful face was better than anything else, and made a person happier. When Paris heard this, he asked who the beautiful woman was. Venus said that it was Helen, of Greece; she was beautiful, graceful, and admired by all the people. Then Paris gave the apple to Venus, and said she was the most beautiful of the three goddesses. Then the story told how Paris won Helen and took her to Troy. There they were married, and there was a great feast. The story tells much more about Paris and Helen, more than I have time to tell.

"The mirror was very costly. It was a globe of glass, and very wonderful. It would show everything that was done by man or beast a mile off. It could tell a person anything he wanted to know. This magical glass had great charms. I feel very sorry because it is lost. I cannot stop crying when I think about it. It had a frame made of light and smooth wood. The wood was so strong that it would last forever. Wet, dust, and worms could not harm it. It is worth more than fine gold. It is like the wood with which King Crampart made a magic horse. The King made it for a beautiful girl, who was the daughter of King Marcadiges. The horse was made very skilfully. When a person rode on it, he could go a hundred miles an hour. The King's son, Clamades,

rode the horse. He was young and daring, and liked to see strange things. He jumped on the horse's back, and put his hand on a screw in its neck. He turned the screw. Then the magic horse flew out of the hall door, and went ten miles in a moment. Clamades was much surprised and frightened. He thought he would never get back to his home again. He had a very long ride. But he soon learned how to manage the horse, and then he rode home. I will not tell you more now. I am afraid you will be tired with my long story. I have said enough to show you that the wood of which the mirror frame is made is very valuable.

"The frame of the mirror was full of gold and rich gems. In one part of the frame there was a picture of a fine horse. The horse was running very fast and chasing a deer. The deer ran faster than the horse, and the horse could not catch him, so he was disappointed and angry. Then the horse went to a man working in a garden. He said to him that if he would help him catch the deer, he would reward him. The man said: 'How can I help you?' The horse said: 'Jump on my back, and I will carry you till we catch the deer.' Then the man got on the horse. But the deer ran so fast that the horse soon became tired, and had to go more slowly. Then the horse told the man to get off his back. But the man said: 'I have the bridle in my hands and spurs on my boots. I now know you are a very useful slave. I will not let you go, but I will keep you and make you work for me.' So the horse was in great trouble, and was caught in his own trap. One's ill will is his own worst enemy. Those who try to harm others, often find that harm comes to them.

"In the frame was also written the story of the dog and the ass. A gentleman kept them. He was very fond of the dog. He played with the dog, and let him jump on him and lick his face. When the ass saw this, he was very jealous. He said: 'Why does my master let that dirty dog jump on him and kiss him? The dog never helps him. I draw heavy loads, and do more work in a week than all the dogs could do in a year. But my master is more kind to the dog than to me. The dog has plenty to eat, and nothing to do, but I have only thistles to eat. I will not let my master

slight me. I will try and make him smile on me and pet me.' Soon the ass came into the house. He walked to his master, who was sitting on a chair. He jumped up and put his feet on the man's knees. Then he tried to lick his face. The ass was very heavy and rough. The man fell off his chair, the skin was torn from his ears, and he was much hurt. He cried: 'Help, help! the ass is killing me.' Then the men came from the fields with sticks and stones, and beat the ass till he was nearly dead. So the ass went into his stall, and did not try again to make his master pet him. So those who envy others often come to grief. An ass is made to eat thistles; and when this foolish beast rules, all are unhappy. Sometimes when the ass has a very high place, wise men only laugh at him.

"The story of Tibert, the Cat, and my father, Reynard, was also written on the frame. It told how they were making a long journey. They promised always to help each other. But one day some men and dogs chased them. Tibert and my father ran fast to escape. Then my father said: 'Tibert, where shall we hide, for the men and dogs see us?' Then my father said: 'I know how to fool them; and you must stay with me, and then we will be all right.' But Tibert was afraid, and said: 'I have only one trick, and that must help me escape.' Then Tibert climbed up a high tree and hid in the leaves at the top. The dogs could not see or catch him. My father was left alone to fight the men and dogs. The men ran in the woods and shouted: 'Kill the Fox.' Then Tibert laughed at my father, and said: 'Now, dear Reynard, show how wise you are. If you are not smart, I am afraid the dogs will catch you and kill you.' My father heard Tibert mocking him. Tibert had promised to help him, and my father trusted him. He was in great danger; but he found a hole, and hid in it and so escaped. From this you see that the Cat is a false friend. I know there are some beasts here that are like him. I do not love Tibert, but I do not wish to harm him. But if he is punished some day I shall not feel sorry.

"Another story was written on the mirror frame. It was about a wolf. He was in a field eating a dead horse. The flesh

of the horse was decayed and stinking. But the wolf was greedy, and ate it. He also crushed and ate the bones. One bone stuck fast in his throat, and nearly choked him to death. Then he tried to find some wise beast who could help him get rid of the bone. He said he would give much gold to any beast who would help him. At last, he met a crane. He thought the crane could help him because he had a long neck. So he promised to give much gold to the crane. The crane put his long neck in the wolf's throat, and pulled out the bone. The wolf started and howled. He said to the crane: 'You hurt me; but I do not care about that now. You must not hurt me again; if you do, I will kill you.' The crane said: 'You may go and feel happy now, Mr. Wolf. The bone is out of your throat. But I want the gold you promised to give me.' The wolf said: 'You great fool, what do you want? You hurt my throat, and want me to pay you for it. You should thank me for saving your life. Your head was in my mouth, and I could have killed you. But I let you take your head out of my mouth safely. You should pay me the gold.'

"All these, and many more good stories were written on the glass. The man who made the glass was very wise and skilful. Because these gems were too rich for me to keep, I sent them to my King and Queen, to show them that I loved them and honored them. If you had seen my children when the glass was taken from them, you would have pitied them. They were greatly grieved, and cried. They often looked in the glass. They liked to see how pretty and smooth their fur was.

"I did not think that Kayward was going to be killed. I thought I could trust Bellin, the Ram, to take these gifts to the King. I could not trust any other beast. I shall travel through the whole earth, and I will find the cruel beast who killed poor Kayward. A murderer is sure to be found out. The murderer of Kayward is perhaps standing before the King now. Wicked beasts can hide their sins, and seem to be good and kind."

THE KING LISTENS TO REYNARD.

Reynard spoke again, and said: "My King, I feel grieved because you say that my father and I never did anything good. Kings have a great deal to trouble them, and it often makes their minds heavy and slow, and they do not remember well. You have forgotten that when your father was King and you were two years old, my father came from a famous school. There he had become very wise and skilful in the use of drugs. He became rich, and wore silk clothes and a golden belt. He came to see your father, who was very sick, and all thought he would die. My father was very sad, for he loved your father greatly. Your father was glad to see him; but he would not let any one else come near him. Your father said: 'Reynard, I am very sick and in great pain.' My father felt his pulse, looked grave, and thought for some time. Then he said: 'My good King, I know what will make you well at once. If you want to get well, you must eat the heart of a wolf six years old. If you do not eat it, I cannot cure you, and you must die.' The Wolf was then standing near the bed, but he said not a word. The King said to him: 'Mr. Isgrim, you hear that only your heart will cure me.' Isgrim said: 'No, my King, I am not yet five years old.' My father then said: 'We must have his heart; cut it out, and then I can tell if it is good and will cure you.' So the Wolf was tied, and his heart cut out. The King ate it, and very soon became well and strong again. Then the King thanked my father very much, and commanded all the beasts to respect and honor him. The King loved him greatly, and gave him a wreath to wear on his head. So my father was greatly honored because he made your father well. All this happened long ago, when you were very young. It is easy for you to forget it all. I also have shown my love for you, and helped you a great deal. But it was a long time ago, and you do not remember. I tell you this to show that my boast is not vain.

"Once Isgrim and I were playing together, and we caught a pig. The pig grunted loudly, and we killed it. Just then you came out of the woods. You spoke kindly to us. You said that

both you and the Queen needed food. You asked us to give you a part of the pig. Isgrim did not like to give away the pig, and growled. Then I said cheerfully: 'My King, I gladly give you my half of the pig. If I had something better I would give it to you, too.' Then Isgrim growled, and caught hold of his half of the pig. So he left only one-fourth of the pig for you and one-fourth for the Queen. For me nothing was left. You did not have enough food; but Isgrim would not give you his half of the pig. So you struck him on the head with your foot and tore the skin from his ears. Then he ran away, howling with pain. You then told Isgrim to go and get you more meat. He did not want to go, but he obeyed and went to find some beast he could kill for you. He was very slow and lazy. Then I said: 'If you wish it, I will go and make Isgrim hurry.' So Isgrim and I went to hunt, and we soon caught a calf. When you saw it, you were glad, and smiled. Then you said that I was swift, and a very good hunter to find the calf so soon. You asked me to divide the calf. So I cut the calf, and gave one half to you and the other half to the Queen. To your kin, I gave the intestines; to the Wolf, I gave the head; and for myself, I kept only the feet. You were surprised, and said: 'Reynard, who taught you to divide the calf so nicely?' Then I said: 'The wolf, who sits here with a bloody wound in his head, taught me. He lost his skin by his own selfishness and greed.' But I will not say any more about this. There are many wolves now who would eat their best friends. They would eat their own kin. They would eat the King also, for they love and fear no one. It is a very unhappy country where these wicked wolves rule. I have done this and many other things to help my King. You do not remember them now. I hope that after a time you will remember, for I shall try hard to help you. Once, I was much honored by the King, and everybody came to me for advice. I may be as greatly honored again. I am now despised; but the beasts may again trust in me as they did in olden times. I have always tried to do right. Now, my King, I kneel at your feet and ask for what is just to me. If any beast knows that I have done wrong, let him come here and swear to it.

Let me be tried by the law. If any one can show strong proof that I have done wrong, you may punish me. If he cannot show that I have broken the law, and it is shown that the beasts say bad things about me because they are jealous, then I am innocent; and you must let me go free."

Then the Lion said: "Reynard, you speak wisely. All I know about Kayward's death is that the Ram brought me his head. So I feel that I must make you free. It was a very wicked thing to kill Kayward. But no one could prove that you killed him. So I cannot justly punish you, and you are now free."

Then the cunning and deceitful Fox said: "My great King, I thank you very much. I am much grieved because Kayward is dead. When he left my house I felt sad. I was afraid that something bad would happen to him. I loved him like a brother, and I have cried many times because he is dead."

When the beasts heard these words of the Fox, they all felt sad and cried. All the beasts were deceived and thought that Reynard had spoken the truth. The King and Queen, also, were very sad about Kayward's death. But they were more grieved about the lost gems. They told Reynard to try hard and find them. They thought Reynard wanted to give these gems to them, and they thanked him very much, and showed him great respect again.

Reynard and Isgrim Argue before the King.

The Fox was delighted, when he heard these words of the King. He knew he was telling a lie, but he swore to find the lost gems. He said he would work day and night, and search the whole world over till he found them.

The King told Reynard to hunt for the gems. He promised to give him all the help he wanted to find them. Reynard thanked the King. He was now free and honored, and he was very proud. He thought that his lies and his fine words had made the King love him. He felt bold, thinking that he could do anything he wished, and that no beast could say anything now against him. All the time Isgrim stood silent and sad. He saw how the Fox had suc-

ceeded in fooling the King. At last he became angry and spoke against the Fox.

He said: "My King, why do you believe the words of the Fox? He likes to tell lies and deceive the beasts. Do not believe his fine words. He is cunning and wants to deceive you. I tell you, he is the most wicked beast in all the land. He has killed many beasts. He deceives you and mocks at you. I am glad Reynard is standing here. Now I can tell about his bad deeds, and all his cunning lies will not help him. My King, let me first tell you what a mean thing he did to my wife, Dame Herswin, some time ago. One cold day he met my wife near a lake. He told her that he would teach her how to catch fish with her tail. He told her to walk on the ice and put her tail into the water through a hole. He said that she could catch more fish than twenty wolves could eat. My foolish and silly wife believed him. She walked through the deep mud till she came to a hole in the ice. Then she held her tail in the hole, and thought the fish would come and bite it. But it was very cold, and she stood at the hole a long time. The water froze hard around her tail. She pulled very hard but she could not get her tail out. It hurt her very much, and she howled loudly. Then Reynard stood near and laughed at her, but did not help her. He knows this is true. I was walking near and saw him. When I heard my wife howling, I came to help her. When Reynard saw me coming, he ran away because he was a great coward. I worked hard to break the ice and get Herswin's tail out of the hole. But her tail broke and she left half of it in the hole. We were also in great danger, for the people in the village near the lake heard her howling. They came running with stones, sticks, clubs, and pitchforks to kill us. The women brought sticks, and they all beat us. They cried: 'Kill the Wolves, kill the Wolves.' We never were in such great trouble before. One strong farmer hurt us badly with a heavy stick. But it was a dark night and we soon escaped. If the people had found us in the day time we would surely have been killed. We ran to a field and hid in some bushes where the people could not find us. Now, my good King, you have kindly heard my story about what the wicked Fox has done to us. We

ask you to help us, and punish him. He seems to be good, but he is a wicked beast. He is always afraid that his head will be cut off, or that he will be hung. He is so bad, that I am sure he will be punished at last."

Reynard now stood up and spoke. He said: "My King, if the Wolf spoke truly, it would hurt my good name. But he speaks because he is mean and wants to blame me and hurt me. I now tell him that he lies, and cannot prove his words. I know I taught his wife to catch fish. I showed her how to get to the lake without walking in the mud. But she was greedy when she heard me tell about the fish. She would not wait till I told her all, but ran to the lake as fast as she could. When she was on the ice she stood so long that her tail froze fast. She did catch more fish than twenty wolves could eat. He who tries to get too much often loses all. Greed often brings trouble. When I saw Herswin with her tail frozen fast in the ice, I tried hard to free her. I worked hard, but I could not help her. She is a large, heavy beast, and I am small and weak. When I was trying to help her, Isgrim came. He was very angry at his wife for being so foolish. He scolded her. He spoke crossly and rudely to her, and called her bad names. He also called me bad names, and said he would kill me. I thought he was very foolish, but I was not afraid of him. So I went away and left him. Then he went to his wife and worked hard to free her. He pulled hard till he was very tired. At last he freed her from the ice. They were very cold, and ran and jumped on the ice to warm themselves. What I say is true. I would not tell a lie to my King for all the gold in the world. I love the truth. Foxes are honest, and never tell lies. If you doubt what I say, give me eight days. Then I will speak with some friends who are wise and know all about the law. I will prove that what I say is true. I will call some good and honest beasts that you can trust, and they will speak for me. Then you, my King, and all the beasts will know that I am right. You will know that I would rather die than tell a lie to the King. I do not like to be friends with the Wolf. He is a very bad and deceitful beast. He is the meanest beast in the world. He hides in the

woods to steal and kill. He is also very treacherous and false to the King. He says I fooled his wife and blames me for getting her tail frozen in the ice. I ask her if this is not a wicked lie. I think she is afraid of Isgrim, and dare not tell the truth."

At these words, Dame Herswin stood up and said: "Reynard, why do you speak so deceitfully and fool all the other beasts? Many times you have deceived me and made much trouble for me. You were very unkind to me at the well. There were two pails hung by a rope on a pulley. When one pail went down, the other pail came up. You stood in one pail and fell down into the water in the well. You staid there a long time in great fear. I heard you crying, and went to the well to help you. I asked you how you fell into the well. You said that you were hunting fish, and that you had eaten so many, and were so full, that you were afraid you would burst. Then I asked you how I could get down to you. You said that if I jumped into the other pail, I would come down easily. So I jumped into the pail. I was much heavier than you, so I went down quickly into the well, and you came up in the other pail. It was a mean and cunning trick. I was very angry at you, but you only mocked me. You said: 'Aunt, this is the way of the world; one falls and another rises.' Then you jumped out of the pail and ran away. I staid in the well all day. I was wet and cold and had no food to eat. At last, I got out, but I was much bruised and nearly dead." Now Reynard spoke to Herswin, and said: "Aunt, I know the bruises hurt you much. It was best that you should have them and not me. You are great and strong and can bear them better than I can, for I am weak. Then, aunt, think how much wisdom this helped you to get. You learned this: 'Never believe a friend or enemy when what he says is to help himself out of trouble. Everybody loves himself the best.' "

Then Herswin said: "Great King, you see this deceitful Fox is full of lies. He flatters and slanders. I cannot tell you all the bad things he has done. Once he led my husband to a great ape, which nearly tore off one of his ears. If the Fox dares to tell the truth, I shall be glad to have him tell his own story."

Reynard now said: "I will be glad to tell my story. I will tell the truth and will not be afraid. I ask the King to hear me.

"Once Isgrim came to me in the woods. He looked sad and said that he was hungry and had no meat to eat. I thought that he was very fat and did not need meat. You cannot believe what he says. At last I got angry and told him that I also needed meat. Then we both hunted together in the woods. We hunted half of the day, but found nothing. Then Isgrim pretended to be weak and tired. He said he could not stand or walk. While we were talking we saw a hole in the rock near a tree. We heard a noise in the hole, but we did not know what caused the noise. I told the Wolf to go in and see if he could find something to eat. I knew there was some animal in the hole. Isgrim was afraid to go in. He said he did not know what animal was in the hole, and he did not want to get hurt. He said I was very cunning, and asked me to go into the hole. He said he would stand near and wait. He told me to hurry and let him know when I had caught the animal. My King, you see the Wolf is a great coward. I am small and weak. He is large and strong. I went into the hole, while Isgrim stood safe outside. I found the way dark, wet, and long; but at last I saw a light in the cave. Then I saw a very large Ape. Her eyes were like fire, her mouth was full of long sharp teeth, and on her paws were very sharp claws. Some young Apes were lying on the ground near their mother. They were cross and fierce like her. When they saw me they opened their mouths and showed their sharp teeth. I was much frightened, but I thought I would try and be brave. So I looked at them. Then I saw that the Ape was as large as the Wolf, and the young ones were as large as I am. They lay in the mud and dirt. I thought it wise to speak pleasantly to them, and not make them angry. So I said: 'My dear aunt, I hope you are well and that you will live long and be happy. I like your children very much. They are very fat and pretty. You must feel proud of them; for they look like a King's children. When I came to this place, I hurried here to see you. I feel very happy to meet you and to find you well.' The Ape said: 'My dear Reynard, you are wel-

come. You find us very dirty to-day, but I thank you for coming to see me. Sometimes our friends come to see us when we are not nice and clean, as we ought to be. The beasts in the country all know you. Your little head is full of knowledge and wisdom. I am very glad you called to see me. I want you to take my children and teach them how to be ladies and gentlemen, so they can live and succeed in the world. Since they were born I have often thought of you, and wished you to teach them. I know that no beast can teach them as well as you. You are wiser than all the rest, and know many other wise and good beasts.'

"When the Ape said this, I knew I was safe. My kind words to her had saved me. She was proud because I called her my aunt; but she is not one of my kin. My true aunt is Dame Rukenaw who stands here. She has very fine children. Then I said to the dirty and stinking Ape: 'Aunt, I will die for you, and give you all my riches, if you need them. I will be glad to work for you night and day.' If I had lost all my riches I should have been glad and felt rich to get out of the cave. The cave was full of smells, and so close that I was afraid I would choke. Then I thought of Isgrim who was standing at the door of the cave without food. So I told the Ape that my wife would be troubled if I staid long. Then I said good-bye to her. The Ape said to me: 'Dear friend, you must not go away till you have eaten something. If you go away in a hurry and do not eat, I shall be displeased.' Then she rose up and led me to a large room. The room was full of deer and many fat and sweet birds. When I saw them I was delighted. I sat down and ate till I was full and could eat no more. When I had finished eating, the Ape gave me the half of a nice deer to take home to my wife. I was ashamed to take so much from her. But she made me take it. Then I said good-bye to her. When I left, she gave me her hand to kiss, and I said I would soon visit them all again. I was very glad that the Ape did not kill me. When I came out of the cave I saw Isgrim lying on the ground. He was groaning, and told me he was very faint, and that he must have some meat soon or he would die. Then I gave him the half of the deer. He did not thank me, but greedily

ate it all up. If I had not given him the meat he would have died. He is ungrateful, and tries to harm me now. When he had eaten it all, he said: 'Reynard, my good friend, what did you find in the hole? I am hungry and must have more to eat. The half of the deer which you gave me is not enough. I am hungry and want more.' Then I said: 'Isgrim, you go into the hole. There you will find my aunt and all her children. If you flatter her and speak pleasantly to her, she will not hurt you. She will be pleased with you, and give you all you want.'

"'My King, I think that any wise beast would have done as I advised, but fools are conceited and will do as they like. One cannot teach them anything. Isgrim said he would do as I told him. Then he went into the stinking cave, where he found the great Ape and her children. At first he felt very sick. He growled and said: 'This is a dirty, stinking pig pen. What dirty and ugly children! Throw them into the water and drown them! Their cross looks frighten me. I hope never again to see such ugly beasts. They are only good to hang in the fields to scare the crows!' The Ape said: 'Mr. Isgrim, it is true that my children are not pretty. They cannot help being homely, and it is none of your business anyhow. They are my children, and I am their mother. One of your friends has just visited me. He is gentlemanly and wise, but you are not. He told me that they are pretty children. I do not care what you say. I want you to hurry and get out of my hole.' Then Isgrim said: 'Dame, you are angry with me. I want some of your meat. It is better for me to have it, than your ugly children.' She told him that she would not give him any meat. Then he told her he would soon find enough to eat. Then he took some meat and tried to run off with it. Then the Ape and her children jumped up. They caught the Wolf and tore him with their sharp claws till the blood ran down his face. I heard him howling and yelling as if he were greatly hurt. Then he ran out of the hole as fast as he could without any meat. When I saw him he was bruised and all bloody from the bites and blows of the Apes. He had some great cuts in his skin. One ear

was cut off and was left in the cave. Perhaps he will talk more kindly and politely when he visits the Ape again.

"When I saw him all bruised and bloody, I pitied him. I told him that I thought he had not talked kindly or wisely to the Ape. He told me that he had said only what he felt. He said the old Ape was a dirty, stinking beast, and the young ones were ugly. I told him this was wrong. I said that he should have spoken pleasantly and called them pretty children. I said he should have called the Ape his aunt, and told her he was glad to see her. He said he would not do that—he would see them all hanged first. Then I said: 'Isgrim, you must not complain now. You are to blame. Kind words do not cost anything, and they make people feel happy. One can speak pleasantly without telling lies.'

"So, my King, I have told you how the Wolf lost his ear. It is the truth. I would not tell a lie to the King for anything."

Isgrim, the Wolf, Challenges Reynard to Fight.

Then Isgrim said to the Fox: "You are a mean beast. I do not care for your cross looks and mocking words. I will tell about the harm you have done me. You say that I was in great trouble and that you came to help me. You lie like a dog! You gave me only a bare bone. You had eaten all the meat yourself. You accuse me of many bad things. You say that I wanted to kill the King to gain great treasures hid in Husterloe. This is also a great and wicked lie. I have forgiven you many times, but I will destroy you now. Hear me, my King, you, my brave knights, my friends, and my kinsmen. I swear that Reynard, the Fox, is a mean and treacherous beast. He is a murderer and a thief. I will fight him before the King till one of us dies. Here I throw down my glove to Reynard. Let him take it up and fight me. If he will not be just to me, he shall die like a coward."

When Reynard heard these angry words he was afraid. He knew that he was weak and the Wolf was strong. He knew that the Wolf might easily defeat him. But he did not wish to avoid the fight. He knew that if he seemed afraid to fight, all the beasts

would despise him and call him a coward. He did not want to lose his good name. He remembered that Isgrim's claws had been taken off, and his foot was sore. So he spoke boldly. He said: "He who says that I am a thief and a murderer, and that I want to kill the King, lies. I tell Isgrim he is the greatest liar in the world. Isgrim, you are a fool. You want harm for yourself, and I will give you all you want. I will show that all your words are lies, and that you do all you can to hurt the King and his beasts. I am not afraid to fight you. So now I take up your glove and throw down mine to you."

When this was done, the King took the gloves from the Fox and the Wolf. He said that they might fight before him; but they must wait and not fight until the next day, and they must find bail. Then the Bear and the Cat came to the King and said they would be bail for the Wolf. Grimbard, the Badger, and Bitelas, the young Ape, said they would be bail for the Fox. As soon as this was done, Rukenaw, the Ape, took Reynard to the porch of the King's house. She said to him: "Reynard, I hope you will be careful and not get hurt in this fight. A wise friend once told me about a charm good for those who meet an enemy and fight him with the sword. He said he had learned the charm from an old priest who was very wise and clever. On the day a person fasts and says the words of this charm he will surely conquer any enemy he meets. So, my dear Reynard, do not be afraid. Before you leave the house, I will read the charm to you, and the Wolf will lose the victory." The Fox thanked her very much, and said that with her help he was sure he would conquer the Wolf and not get hurt. He said it was a just fight, because he did not want revenge, but only to save his good name. Then he staid all night with his friends. They ate and drank and were very merry. They talked about the fight on the morrow, and hoped Reynard would conquer.

Rukenaw thought a good deal how to help Reynard to win the fight. She shaved him from his head to his tail, and put a great deal of oil on his skin. This made him very slippery, so that the Wolf would find it very hard to hold him when he caught him. It was much harder, because the Fox was round and fat. Then

Rukenaw gave Reynard some good advice. She said: "When you begin the fight be careful and do not get warm. Do not go too near the Wolf. Let Isgrim run at you when he wants to strike you. When he runs at you, strike the dust with your tail and throw it in his eyes. Keep your tail between your legs, so that the Wolf cannot catch it and pull you down. When the Wolf is blinded by the dust, you must try and bite him where you can hurt him most. Then you must turn and strike him in the eyes with your tail again, to blind and confuse him. If you do this the Wolf will soon become very tired, so he cannot run at you. He will become tired all the sooner, because his feet are sore from the loss of his shoes. He is a very large beast, but his heart is very small, like a chicken's. This you must do, Reynard. Believe an old woman, when I tell you that cunning will help you more than strength. You must be cheerful and hope for the best. Then you and your friends will have much joy and gain fame and a proud name by your victory over the Wolf this day. This is the charm which the priest taught me. No enemy can hurt you when you have this charm. These are the words of the charm." Then Rukenaw put her hands on Reynard's head and said:

"Blaerde, Sheay, Alphenio,
Kasbue Corsons, Alsbuifrio."

Then she said: "Now, dear Reynard, you are safe, and no enemy can hurt you this day. Go to bed and rest a short time. It is not yet daylight, and a little sleep will make you stronger and help you to gain the victory in the fight."

The Fox thanked Rukenaw, and told her that he believed in the charm. He said he would always love her and do all he could to help her. Then he lay down on the grass, under a tree, and slept till the sun rose. When the sun was up, the Otter came and woke him, and gave him a fat young duck for his breakfast. The Otter said to Reynard: "Dear friend, I watched all night to get this duck for you. I stole it from a man who had shot it. It is fresh and good. Take it and eat it to make you strong for the

fight." The Fox was very glad to get the duck for his breakfast. He said that if he lived, he would try and do something for the Otter, who was a good friend to him. He then ate the duck. The cold morning air made him very hungry, and he enjoyed the duck very much. Then he went to a brook and took a good drink of water. Reynard and all his friends now went to the field where he and the Wolf were to fight. When the King saw the Fox with his hair all shaved off, and his body covered with oil, he was surprised. He said: "Reynard, you look more as if you wanted to run away, than to fight." The Fox was silent. He bowed to the King and Queen; and then went to the place where he was to fight. The Wolf met him there. Isgrim was vain. He mocked the Fox, and told him he would soon conquer him.

The Leopard and the Lynx were there to see that the fight was fair. They told the Wolf to speak. Isgrim then said the Fox was a false friend to the King, and a murderer. He said he would show this to be true by conquering the Fox in the fight. The Leopard and the Lynx now told Reynard and Isgrim to make ready for the fight. Then the beasts all stood around to see the fight. Dame Rukenaw staid a while with Reynard. She told him to remember all she had said to him. She asked him to remember how a few years ago he was thought to be the wisest and cleverest of all the beasts. She said he was older and much wiser now than he was then, and he was as strong. She told him to be careful and win in the fight. Then he would get great honor and fame for himself and friends for all time. Reynard answered his aunt, thanking her. He said he would try hard, and remember all she had told him. He said that he would be brave and gain fame for himself and friends. Then he said that he was ready for the fight, and Rukenaw left him, wishing him success.

The Fight of Reynard and Isgrim, the Wolf.

The Fox and the Wolf now began the fight. The Wolf ran madly to where the Fox stood. He quickly jumped at Reynard and struck at him with his fore feet. The Fox dodged the blow,

and quickly jumped to one side. Then the Wolf ran round and round the field and tried to catch the Fox. The Wolf could run faster than Reynard, and when he came near he tried to strike him with his fore feet. But Reynard cunningly escaped. When the Wolf came near him, Reynard threw the dust in his eyes, so he could not see plainly. The dust hurt Isgrim's eyes, and he rubbed them with his paw. Then the Fox struck the Wolf in the face with his thick tail. The Wolf was mad with rage. He stopped chasing the Fox, to rub the dust and sand out of his eyes. Reynard saw this, and he ran to Isgrim and struck him in the face, and bit his head three times. When Reynard saw that he had hurt the Wolf, he mocked him, and said: "What is the matter, Mr. Isgrim? Has some one struck you? Stay and I will bring you help. You kill poor, weak lambs and then blame me. I can now punish you for your bad deeds. I will punish you well, and before we stop fighting you shall beg for pardon. But I am sorry, and pity you. So, if you kneel down and ask me to forgive you, I will let you live."

These taunts of the Fox made the Wolf furious. He wanted to tear the Fox to pieces. He held up his foot and struck Reynard so hard that he fell on the ground like one dead. But Reynard soon stood up again. He jumped on the Wolf and held him down for a time. Then the fight was fierce. The Wolf could only yell and howl. Ten times Isgrim jumped at the Fox to kill him with his great sharp teeth. Ten times the Fox escaped because his body was thickly covered with oil and the Wolf could not hold him. The Fox ran and dodged easily and quickly. He gave the Wolf many sharp bites. Isgrim began to think that he could never kill the Fox. So the fight continued. The Wolf was very strong, but the Fox was very sly and quick. Isgrim was wild and furious; Reynard was cool and careful. Now the Wolf saw that the loss of his claws hindered him. He thought he would be careful and try to learn from the Fox how to fight him well. He thought he would wait till he could strike and kill the Fox at once. So he waited. When he thought the right time had come, he jumped on the Fox and threw him down on the ground. Then

before Reynard could jump up, Isgrim fell on him. Isgrim was very large and heavy, and thought he could crush the Fox to death. He thought to himself: "It is a great shame that I do not kill the Fox quickly. He beats me, and all the beasts will mock and taunt me if I do not conquer him soon. I am much hurt and I am bleeding fast. He throws dust and sand in my eyes, and soon I shall not be able to see at all."

The Wolf's friends were now glad, and Reynard's friends were sad. Reynard tried hard to escape, but he could not. Then the Fox was in great fear. He struck Isgrim's head with his fore feet, and tore the skin from his head and ears. He tore out one of the Wolf's eyes. The Wolf was in great pain; the blood ran down his face and he howled loudly. But Isgrim would not let the Fox go. He held him fast, and said: "Now, Fox, I have conquered you. Ask pardon or I will kill you. Your lies and your cunning shall not help you now. You must be my slave, or die."

Then the Fox said: "Dear Mr. Isgrim, I am now your true friend. I will do all I can for you and your friends. I will serve you as I would serve our good Pope. I will go to Rome, or Palestine, or any place you wish. All the honor I get from my toil and good deeds shall be yours. No king ever received a greater gift. You shall have all my money and my lands. If I catch any geese, birds, fish, or take anything else, you, your wife and children shall have the largest part. I will add my cunning to your strength. Then if we help each other all the world cannot conquer us. I will stay with you and guard you from all harm. I say truly that I did not want to fight you. You said we must fight, and you made me do it. You are my friend. I could have struck you harder and killed you; but I did not want to do it. An enemy should not kill his friend, and the strong should not hurt the weak. This I have done; remember it well. When I ran before you I could have hurt you more. But I pitied you, and did not do it. I accidentally tore out your eye, and I feel very sorry about it. I would give one of my eyes to give you your eye back again. But in this you have a great gift. Everybody will see one eye in you, but you will see two eyes in them. Now I ask you not to kill me. It is wise

not to be angry. Rash people make much sorrow. I know you are clever, wise, and brave. You wish honor and fame more than you wish to kill me. My death will not help you. If you let me live, you will have a true friend."

Then Isgrim said: "False thief! You deceive yourself. I know that if you were free again, you would not give me a dry egg shell to eat. You are selfish and treacherous. If you promised to give me all the gold in the world, I would not let you escape. I cannot believe you. I despise you and I despise your riches. All you said to me is nothing but lies. You want to cheat me. I have known you a long time. I know you so well that you cannot fool me now. If I believed you, you would boast and say that I was a fool. You can tell your great lies to those who do not know you. I know you are a thief and a liar. You cannot deceive me. You mean and deceitful Fox! You say you did not fight me very hard. Look at me! You tore out one of my eyes. You gave me twenty wounds, and you would not give me a moment to breathe and rest. If I should not kill you now, I would be a great fool. If I should not punish you now for all the harm and shame you have caused me, everybody would say I was a stupid ass. My anger is great because you told lies to my wife, Herswin. I love her dearly. You meanly and wickedly cheated her. I remember it all, and I hate you. You shall die."

The Wolf was very foolish to talk so much. He should have killed the Fox first and talked afterwards. For, while he was talking, he lost much blood from his wounds and became very weak. The Fox saw that the Wolf was becoming weak. He knew that he must now try hard to save his life. So Reynard jumped up suddenly and put his teeth deep and fast in the Wolf's throat. Isgrim then fell to the ground and fainted. The Fox then took his teeth out of the Wolf's throat and bit his body several times to show that he had conquered him. Then he seized Isgrim by the hind legs and dragged him around the field, so all could see him. Isgrim's friends were now sorrowful. They went to the King with tears in their eyes, and asked him to stop the fight and save the Wolf. So the King commanded the fight to stop. He told the

Leopard and the Lynx to say to the Fox and the Wolf that they must now stop fighting. The King said it would be a shame if one were killed. He said that all the beasts who had seen the fight knew the Fox had conquered.

Reynard then said: "I thank the King very much, and will obey him in all things." Now Grimbard, the Badger, and his wife, Slopard; Rukenaw and her two sons, Bitelas and Fairlimb, came to the Fox to congratulate him. Also, Pancrote, the Beaver, and Ordigale, the Otter, and Martin, the Ferret, the Squirrel, the Polecat, the Weasel, and the Shrew came. A hundred more came, and these would not have come if the Fox had not won the fight. All these, and a few who had accused the Fox, now said they were his friends. They all would feel proud if they could do anything to help him. This is the way of the world. The rich have many friends who are glad to help them. The poor have many enemies, and all that they get they lose. These friends of the Fox saluted him as a prince. They said he was the best of beasts. They made music with fifes and horns, and shouted for joy. They then went with him to the King. The soldiers marched in front, and the musicians marched behind.

Reynard Becomes a Great Lord.

When the Fox came to the King, he kneeled before him. The King took him by the hand, and said: "Reynard, you have to-day gained much honor. You are this day made a great Lord. From this time you are the Earl of Hedgewood. Now you are free to go where you wish. When Isgrim gets well, I will call all my wise beasts. Then I will send for you both, and the victor's wreath which you won in the fight will be put on your head. The star and sash of an Earl will also then be given to you."

The Fox answered: "My good and kind King, I am well rewarded by your praise of my victory in the fight. My King, when I first came to you, I found many beasts here who wished to kill me. I never harmed them. They thought that you honored me more than the Wolf, and for this they hated me. This makes me

REYNARD PUT HIS TEETH DEEP AND FAST IN THE WOLF'S THROAT

remember about some hounds which I once saw near a large house. In the house many monks lived and had plenty to eat and drink. The dogs stood waiting for one of the dogs who had crept into the pantry to steal some meat. He soon came running out with a fat piece of beef in his mouth. But the cook soon followed him and threw a pan of hot water on him. Then he howled and yelled with pain. Then these mean and selfish dogs, who thought only about the meat, said: 'You are very rich; you must love the kind cook who gave you so much meat.' But when he came near them, and they saw that the skin was off his back, and that he was in great pain, they were very rude to him and at last drove him away. Those who now boast that they are my new friends are like these. If I cheat and rob the church and the poor, they will praise and help me, so they may get something. Now, my King, no one can say anything to harm me. I am like the dog with the piece of beef in his mouth. But if I am hurt then all avoid me and think I am not worth speaking to. If I were wise, I would be thought a fool. And if I were a saint, they would think me the most wicked beast in the world. All would despise me."

The King then answered: "Reynard, you should be a good friend to your King. I think you will work hard to help me rule the beasts and do them good. We live in bad times. Many years ago all the beasts were good and obedient. Now many beasts are disobedient and love to quarrel and fight. We think that you are wise and clever, and will help us a great deal. So we think it well to make you a great lord. We hope that you will merit this great honor, and that no enemy can again speak evil of you. We give you a high and honorable place. We shall trust in you. We want you to be just to all the beasts who come to you for help. Remember the story you told us. Love the truth and try to do good. Let your sharp wit and great learning help you in doing good. Then you will be so useful that we cannot do without you. While you work for us and help us, no beast in all the country shall harm you. If any one harms you, we will punish him."

When the King had spoken these kind and pleasant words, Reynard's friends were glad and proud. They were also proud

to have so good and just a King. They loved the King, and would be willing to die for him. Then the King said that he wished to please them, and if the Fox only did right, he would give him greater honors. He also told the beasts that if Reynard became careless, they must warn him.

Then Rukenaw said: "My good King, fear not. We will watch Reynard well, and if he does wrong we will let you punish him."

The Fox thanked the King very much, and said: "My good and great King, you are very kind to me. I can never repay you. I do not think I am worthy to receive so much honor and kindness. I did not try to get your gifts, and I do not think I should have so much honor. But you gave them to me. I will try and be humble. From this time I will always live and work for my King, and the country he rules so wisely."

Meanwhile, Bruin, the Bear, Tibert, the Cat, Herswin, and other friends carried Isgrim away from the field. They put him on some soft hay, and covered him with blankets. They sent for the doctor, who came and dressed his wounds. Isgrim had twenty-five wounds on his body, and lay insensible. His friends chafed his brow with sweet smelling water, and rubbed his eyes and cheeks for a time. At last he woke and gave a loud yell, which frightened his friends. They gave him a drink to make him stay awake, and some medicine to make him well. In a short time the doctors said that Isgrim would not die, but that he would get well. Then Herswin, his wife, was very glad.

When the beasts went away from the King's house, Reynard went also. The King and Queen were very kind, and said good-bye to him. They told him that he must not stay away long, because they wanted him to come and help them. The Fox said that he would be very glad and proud to do anything the King wished. He also promised that all his kinsmen would do anything they could to help the King. Then Reynard hurried away to go to his home at Malepardus. He was very glad to escape so well, and to be honored by the King. He told his friends that he could now reward them. He said that he would give great honors and riches

to those who had helped him when he was in trouble. But he said he would punish his enemies, and take from them all their lands and all their gold and silver. He said that he would make them feel very sorry for the harm they did him.

The road was a long one, but, at last, Reynard and his friends came to Malepardus. Then Reynard's friends said good-bye to him and wished him success. Reynard thanked them, and said that he would always remember them and how they had helped him in his trouble. He promised to help them and to give them anything they wished. He then shook hands with his friends and said good-bye to them, and they all went away to their homes.

Now Reynard hurried into his house to meet his wife, Ermeline. She was delighted to see him safe and well at home again. She spoke kindly to him and smiled sweetly upon him. Then Reynard felt as gay and happy as on the day when he married her. He told her and his children all the things that had happened to him since he left home. They were all very glad and proud to hear how well he had succeeded. After this Reynard staid at home with his family. He lived with them in peace and prosperity for many years. At last he died and was buried with his fathers.

ALADDIN, OR THE WONDERFUL LAMP.

Aladdin Meets a Stranger.

In Pekin there lived a tailor named Mustapha. He had a wife and one son. The son's name was Aladdin. The tailor was very poor. Aladdin was a smart boy, but very careless and idle. He would not work. As he grew up, this laziness increased. He was always playing on the street with bad boys. His father grieved very much because he was so worthless.

When Aladdin was fifteen years old, his father died. His mother worked for money to buy clothes and food for him. One day when he was playing on the street, a stranger, passing along, noticed him. He stopped and asked his name. Aladdin told him

that his father's name was Mustapha. He told the stranger his father was dead.

The stranger pretended to be very sorry. He said he was Mustapha's brother. This was a lie, for he was not Aladdin's uncle. He gave Aladdin a handful of money. He told him to take it to his mother, and tell her he would come to see her in the evening.

Aladdin ran home and gave the money to his mother. He told her what the stranger had said. She was surprised. She did not know her husband had a brother, but she believed what the stranger had said, because he had been so kind to them.

In the evening, the stranger came. He brought some fine fruits and wine to Aladdin's mother. The stranger asked Aladdin what trade he had chosen to learn and follow. Aladdin was ashamed, because he had been so idle and had chosen no trade. He did not answer his uncle. He hung his head and blushed. His mother told the stranger that Aladdin was a very idle boy, and would do nothing but play all day on the street. The stranger reproved him. He told him that he would buy a store and furnish it with stuffs and linens. He said he would give it to him, if he promised to be diligent. Aladdin accepted his uncle's offer gladly.

Next day Aladdin's uncle took him to a store. He bought him some handsome clothes and gave him some money. He introduced him to a number of merchants in the town. Both Aladdin and his mother were deceived, for they thought the stranger was really Mustapha's brother.

Aladdin Goes into a Cave for the Lamp.

On Friday, the stranger took Aladdin to see the gardens out of town. They started in the morning and took their dinner with them. The gardens were very beautiful, and Aladdin was very much pleased with them. They were walking through the gardens, and went on till they came to a mountain. Aladdin was very tired, and so they sat down to rest.

The stranger, who was really a magician, took a parcel of cakes and sweet meats out of his pocket, and gave them to Aladdin to eat. When he had finished eating, they walked on. They soon came to a valley between very high mountains. The magician told Aladdin that he would show him something wonderful. He told him to gather some sticks and kindle a fire. Aladdin obeyed. The magician threw some perfume into the fire and said some magical words. A great smoke arose. The earth trembled a little and opened. Aladdin saw a large stone. The magician told him that immense treasures were under the stone. He said if Aladdin would promise to obey him, he would give him the treasures. Aladdin promised.

The magician put a ring on his finger. He told him to speak the names of his father and grandfather, and to raise up the stone. Aladdin did so. He saw a large hole and some steps. He was very much frightened and started to run away. The magician caught him and knocked him down. He wanted to make Aladdin afraid of him.

The magician said to him, "You will see three large halls at the bottom of these steps. A number of large coffers full of gold are in each hall. You must not meddle with them. Do not let your clothes touch the walls or you will surely perish. You will soon come to a garden. There you will be safe and you may handle anything you please. At the farther end of the garden you will find a lamp burning in a niche. Take down the lamp, then throw away the wick, pour out the oil, put the lamp in your bosom, and bring it to me."

Aladdin obeyed his uncle. He walked carefully through the halls and went into the garden. He took the lamp from the niche. He poured out the oil, threw away the wick, and put the lamp in his bosom.

He looked about and saw the trees covered with fruits of many colors; white, red, green, blue, purple, and yellow. Some were transparent. The transparent ones were diamonds; the white ones were pearls; the red ones were rubies; the green ones were emeralds; the blue ones were turquoises; the purple ones were

amethysts; the yellow ones were sapphires. All the fruits were very large and beautiful, and Aladdin was much pleased with them. He filled his pockets with them and put a great many in his bosom on top of the lamp.

He then went back through the halls. He soon reached the steps, and called to his uncle to help him out. The uncle wanted to get the lamp, and then he would shut him up in the cave and leave him there. But he did not tell Aladdin this. He told Aladdin to give the lamp to him and then he would help him out. Aladdin had the lamp buried among the jewels in his bosom. He was ashamed to let his uncle see that he had taken so many jewels. So he refused to give the lamp to his uncle until he was out of the cave.

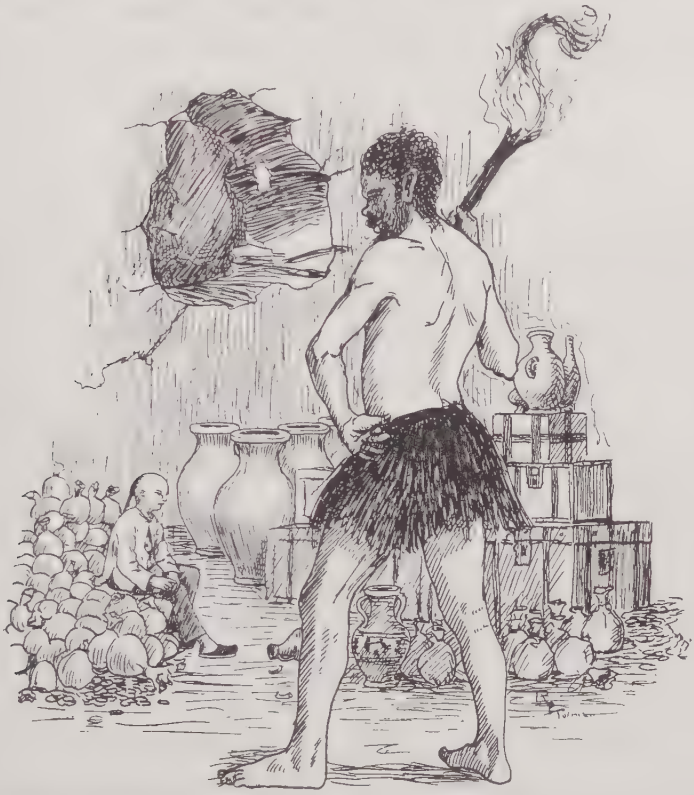
They disputed about it for a long time. At last the magician saw a man coming. He was afraid the man would see Aladdin with the lamp. He became very angry at Aladdin, because he would not give him the lamp. He said two magical words which replaced the stone, and closed the earth over it. He did not go back to the city, for he was afraid he would meet Aladdin's mother in the city, and that she would ask for her son. He started for his own country. He thought Aladdin would be killed in the cave.

Aladdin Rubs the Ring and the Lamp.

Aladdin was very much frightened when the stone was replaced. He was in the dark hall all alone. He called to his uncle to open the cave and he would give him the lamp. But it was too late. His uncle could not hear him, for he had gone away. Aladdin thought he would go back to the garden. But the hall door was shut and he could not open it. He could not get out, and he had nothing to eat. He stayed in the hall two days. He became very hungry and very much frightened, and he clasped his hands. He accidentally rubbed the ring on his finger which the magician had given him.

In an instant, an enormous Genie rose out of the earth with a torch in his hand. He said he was the slave of the ring. He

asked Aladdin what he wanted. Aladdin was very glad, and he asked him to release him from the cave. Immediately the earth opened and Aladdin was lifted out of the cave. The Genie then disappeared, and the earth closed. Aladdin was now satisfied, for he was safe. He started for home and soon reached it. He had eaten nothing for two days and was very weak. His mother had been anxious about him, and was glad he was now safe at home.



AN ENORMOUS GENIE ROSE OUT OF THE EARTH WITH A TORCH IN HIS HAND

Aladdin told her all about the wonderful cave. She was very angry at his uncle, because he had been so treacherous. The next morning when Aladdin awoke, he was very hungry. He asked his mother for some breakfast. She told him she had nothing in the house to eat. She said she had no money to buy provisions, but she would clean the lamp he had brought home, and he could sell it for money to buy bread. She took some sand and began to rub it.

In an instant, a Genie stood before her and asked her what she wanted. He said he was the slave of the lamp. She was very much alarmed by the sudden appearance of the Genie, and swooned away. Aladdin snatched the lamp out of her hand. He said, "I am very hungry; bring me something to eat." The Genie disappeared, but soon returned with a large silver basin containing twelve covered plates of silver full of the choicest dainties, and six white loaves of bread, and two bottles of wine. He put these things on the table and disappeared.

Aladdin Becomes Rich.

Aladdin's mother soon recovered. She was surprised and pleased with the provisions. They sat down and ate until they were satisfied. Aladdin told his mother that rubbing the lamp had caused the Genie to appear. His mother said she would never touch it again. She told him to sell the lamp. He would not do it. He said he would keep the lamp, and if they wanted anything, it would be very useful. He told his mother he would rub the lamp when she was not in the room, as she was so much afraid of the Genie.

They soon ate up all the provisions which the Genie had given them. Aladdin sold the silver plates and basin for money to buy more provisions. When the money was all gone, he rubbed the lamp again, and the Genie brought him more provisions. In this way, Aladdin and his mother lived for several years. Aladdin stopped going with bad company. He became acquainted with many merchants and jewelers in the city. He studied very hard and soon became a very wise, agreeable man.

Aladdin Falls in Love.

One day Aladdin was walking in the town. He saw the Sultan's daughter and fell in love with her. Her name was Badroulboudour. She was a beautiful woman. He determined to ask the Sultan for her. He wanted to marry her. His mother

thought he was crazy. But at last he persuaded her to go to the Sultan and ask him to allow Badroulboudour to marry her son.

Aladdin put the jewels which he had brought from the cave into a vessel of fine porcelain. He sent them to the Sultan with his mother. The Sultan was very much pleased with the jewels. Aladdin's mother told the Sultan that her son wanted to marry the princess. The Sultan was very much amused. But he told her to come back in three months and he would answer her. She was satisfied, and went home and told Aladdin. Aladdin was delighted and said he would wait patiently.

Aladdin Gets Married.

In three months, Aladdin sent his mother to the Sultan again. The Sultan consented to let Badroulboudour marry Aladdin, if in one week Aladdin would send forty bowls of jewels to him. Twenty white slaves and twenty black slaves must bring the bowls, and the slaves must all be handsomely dressed.

Aladdin's mother went home and told him all this. Aladdin summoned the Genie and the Genie brought him eighty slaves. Each black slave carried a gold basin containing jewels. The white slaves walked before the black ones. They soon reached the palace.

The Sultan was both surprised and very much pleased with these presents. He sent for Aladdin. Aladdin rode to the palace on a very fine horse, the slaves walking before him. They threw money to the people along the street.

The Sultan met Aladdin at the gate and embraced him. He told him he might marry his daughter. Aladdin talked to the Sultan a long time. He then mounted his horse and rode home. He summoned the Genie again. He told the Genie to build a palace for him. He wanted the rooms lined with gold and silver, and the windows decorated with jewels.

The Genie obeyed him. He built an elegant palace. He put fine horses in the stable and put a great many bags of gold in the treasury. He did the work all in one night. Aladdin was well

pleased with it. He told the Genie to spread a velvet carpet from the Sultan's palace to his own for the princess to walk on. The Genie obeyed Aladdin. Aladdin and the princess were married and they lived together very happily.

Aladdin's Palace Goes on a Journey.

Some years after this, the magician, who had shut Aladdin up in the cave, came back to Pekin. He wanted to see if Aladdin had escaped. He found that he had escaped and was very wealthy. He heard he had married a princess. He discovered that Aladdin was not at home. He had gone to hunt in the forest. The magician wanted to get Aladdin's wonderful lamp.

Aladdin was very careless with his lamp. He had left it on a cornice. The magician bought a basketful of new lamps. He was very cunning. He walked along the street and offered to exchange the new lamps for old ones. He knew Aladdin was away from home. He went to the palace and asked a servant if she wanted to exchange an old lamp for a new one. The servant had seen Aladdin's lamp on the cornice. She asked the princess if she might exchange the old lamp for a new one. The princess knew nothing about the wonderful lamp and she quickly consented. The servant girl gave the old lamp to the magician. He gave her a new one and hurried from the palace. He was afraid Aladdin might come home. He was delighted to get the lamp. He went to a lonely place in the city and rubbed the lamp. The Genie appeared.

He told the Genie to carry the palace, with all it contained, and himself to Africa. The Genie obeyed the magician and carried them all to Africa.

The next morning, the Sultan went to his window. He looked toward the palace. He was surprised to see that it had disappeared during the night. He thought Aladdin had caused it to be taken away and he was very angry. He sent his servants to the forest for Aladdin. The servants found him and bound him with chains and brought him to the palace. The Sultan told

him that he should die. He ordered the executioner to cut off Aladdin's head.

The people loved Aladdin very much, and they asked the Sultan to forgive him. The Sultan was afraid to refuse their request. He said he would forgive Aladdin. Aladdin was released. He asked the Sultan why he wanted to kill him, for he did not know the palace had been removed. The sultan told him about the palace. Aladdin was both surprised and grieved. He went to the window and looked out. The palace was not there. He asked the Sultan to give him forty days in which to find his wife. The Sultan consented. Aladdin left the Sultan's palace and walked down to the river. As he was walking, he slipped and almost fell into the water. He caught hold of a rock. As he did this, he accidentally rubbed the ring which the magician had given him. A Genie appeared. Aladdin told him to carry him to his palace and put him down under Badroulboudour's window. It was soon night. He sat down under a tree near the window and fell asleep. He woke very early in the morning. He looked up at the window and saw his wife standing there. She recognized him and sent a servant to bring him into the palace. Aladdin followed the servant to the princess' room.

The magician was not in the palace. Aladdin and his wife were very glad to meet again. Badroulboudour told Aladdin how the magician had gotten the lamp. He was sorry he had been so careless. She told Aladdin that the magician visited her daily and wanted to marry her. He told her the Sultan had killed Aladdin, but she would not believe him. She was afraid of him, and she would not marry him.

Aladdin went to a drug store near the palace and purchased some poison. He returned to the palace, and gave the powder to the princess. He told her to put the powder into some wine and give the wine to the magician. If the magician should drink the wine, he would die. Then Aladdin hid himself in a closet in the room.

That evening the magician visited the princess. She had dressed herself elegantly. He thought she was becoming fond of

him and he was delighted. She asked him to drink some wine with her. He gladly consented. A servant put the powder which the princess had given her into the cup and she poured some wine on the powder in the cup and gave it to the magician. He drank a little of the wine and died instantly.

The magician had always kept the lamp in his bosom. Aladdin stepped out of the closet and opened the magician's coat. He took the lamp from his bosom. He rubbed the lamp. The Genie appeared. He told the Genie to carry the palace back to China. In a short time the palace was in its old place.

The next morning, the Sultan went to the window. He saw the palace again in the field near his own, and he knew it was Aladdin's palace. He was overjoyed and ran quickly to the palace to embrace his daughter. He was very glad she was safe again. Badroulboudour told her father all about the lamp. The Sultan forgave Aladdin. The dead body of the magician was thrown away. The people were all glad Aladdin and Badroulboudour were safe back in China.

The End of the Lamp.

The magician was dead, but he had a brother living. This brother was also a magician and a very bad man. He found out that his brother was dead and how he had been killed. He was very revengeful. He wanted to kill Aladdin, because Aladdin had killed his brother. He went to the city of Pekin.

A holy woman, named Fatima, lived in Pekin. Everybody loved her because she was good. She was able to cure the headache by putting her hand on the person's head. The magician heard about Fatima. He went to her house at night and killed her. He took her clothes and her beads from her body, and put them upon himself. He threw the body of Fatima into a cistern. He returned to the city and pretended he was Fatima. The people thought it really was Fatima. He walked along the street toward the palace and many people followed him. Badroulboudour saw the crowd from her window. She had often heard about

the holy woman, but had never seen her. She sent a servant to call her into the palace.

The magician was delighted and followed the servant to the princess. The princess thought it was Fatima. She was much pleased with her. The magician talked for a long time to Badroulboudour. She showed all the rooms in the house to Fatima. They visited the large hall last. The magician looked at the hall and said it wanted one thing to complete it. He said if a roc's egg were hung up in the dome of the hall, it would be beautiful.

Badroulboudour told Aladdin what Fatima had said. Aladdin wanted to please his wife, so he summoned the Genie. He told the Genie he wanted a roc's egg put in the dome.

The Genie became very angry because the roc's egg was his master. He told Aladdin about the magician. He said the magician had murdered Fatima, dressed himself in her clothes, and had come to the palace to kill him. He then snatched the lamp from Aladdin's hand and disappeared.

Aladdin went into the room where Badroulboudour and the magician were sitting. He pretended he had the headache, and he asked Fatima to cure it. The magician had a large dagger hidden in his bosom. He thought now he could kill Aladdin.

He walked toward Aladdin, but Aladdin saw the dagger and caught the magician by the arm. He snatched the dagger from him, and killed him with it. Aladdin was very sorry he had lost the lamp; but he was very glad the magician was dead, and all were safe.

In a few years, the Sultan died and Aladdin became king. He lived until he was very old. He was a good king, and all the people loved him very much.

CHEVY-CHASE.

Many years ago England and Scotland were separate countries. Each had its own king and numerous soldiers. These countries were small, but they were always very jealous of each

other. Quarrels and fights often occurred. In those days almost all men were trained to war from boyhood. The English and Scottish knights were gallant, brave, and hardy. They loved to gain honor and praise in battle. Clothed in mail, with bow, battle-axe, and lance, they met their foes with stout hearts.

The English knights were passionately fond of both hunting and fighting. The best hunting grounds were in Scotland, of which Chevy-Chase was a favorite place. But the English had no right to hunt there, for Chevy-Chase belonged to Earl Douglas, a noble Scottish knight. Yet the English knights dared to hunt there, although the Scots often met them and tried to drive them out. The dangers of hunting in Chevy-Chase only increased the pleasures of the sport for the bold Englishmen.

Earl Percy, a valiant English leader, vowed that, for three days, he would hunt deer in Chevy-Chase. His intentions were told to the brave Earl Douglas. Douglas sent to Percy and told him that he must not hunt in Chevy-Chase. He said he would stop it. But the bold English knight heeded not this warning. He chose fifteen hundred brave knights, who could be trusted, and went to the woods.

On Monday morning before the sun was up, and just as the day was dawning, they began the chase. The yelp of the hounds and the shout of the huntsmen re-echoed among the hills. Before noon they had killed a hundred nice fat deer. The hunters dined and then renewed their hunting. Earl Percy went to see the large pile of deer which had been killed. He was delighted, and said, "Earl Douglas said I should not hunt in Chevy-Chase, but he has not come to drive me out. Perhaps he is afraid." Just then, Earl Douglas, with twenty hundred Scottish knights, all dressed in bright armor, appeared.

Instantly Earl Percy commanded all of his men to cease their sports and prepare for battle. He did not intend to let Earl Douglas drive him away.

The Scottish soldiers came on. The brave Earl Douglas, on a milk-white steed, led them. His armor shone like gold and glittered in the sun. He rode up to Earl Percy, with a frown

upon his brow, and demanded why he hunted in Chevy-Chase and killed his deer without his consent. Earl Percy as haughtily replied, that he would spend his best blood to kill the Douglas' best game.

Earl Douglas was in a rage, and vowed that one of them must die. These two fearless leaders wished to fight the battle alone, but this did not please the other knights, for they were all eager to fight also. Witherington, a gallant soldier, declared it would be a shame for his leader to fight alone while he stood and looked on. He said he would fight as long as he had power to stand. The English bow-men could wait no longer. Instantly they bent their bows and let fly a thousand arrows against their foes. Full four score Scots fell to rise no more.

Earl Douglas divided his men into three parties, each with a bold leader. Soon the Scottish spearmen, on heavy chargers, marched upon their enemies. But the Englishmen were prepared, and horse met horse with a terrible shock. Spear met spear and were broken as though they were reeds. The English bow-men threw down their bows and drew their bright swords. They dealt heavy blows upon the shields and helmets of their foes.

The foes were now mingled, but all fought most valiantly. Each strove to overcome his opponent. Chevy-Chase now re-echoed not with the joyous shout of the huntsmen, but with the clash of arms, with the cries of the victor, and with the groans of the dying. Blood soaked the ground, yet there was no sign of giving up. At last Earl Percy and Earl Douglas met. With sword and shield they fought long and fiercely. Blood flowed from the wounds of each, yet both were firm and would not give up. They ceased a moment to rest, and each admired the courage of the other. Just then an arrow from an English bow sped through the air. It pierced Earl Douglas through the heart and he fell dead upon the ground. Earl Percy viewed his fallen foe, and declared he never saw such a courageous knight.

Among the Scots there was a noble knight, named Sir Hugh Montgomery. He saw Earl Douglas die, and instantly vowed vengeance upon Earl Percy. He rode a gallant charger, and

rushed madly through the fight. His lance was aimed at Earl Percy. He heeded not the English bow-men, nor the spearmen in his way. He reached Earl Percy, and through his body he drove his spear full three feet or more. And so both these bold leaders were slain at Chevy-Chase.

An English archer then saw that brave Earl Percy was killed. He had a good strong bow in his hand. His arrow was three feet long, and this he drew up to the head. He aimed at Sir Hugh Montgomery and loosed the shaft. It sped true to its mark, and the feather on the arrow was wet in Montgomery's heart-blood.

This furious fight lasted from noon until the sun went down. With Douglas died the choicest of his army. His bravest knights lay bleeding upon the bloody ground, and of his twenty hundred men but fifty-five escaped. With Earl Percy, many noble and gallant knights perished. Witherington most bravely fought, for when his legs were cut off, he fought upon his stumps. Of the fifteen hundred Englishmen, but fifty-three went home. And thus ended the hunting which Earl Percy made in Chevy-Chase.

THE HEIR OF LINNE.

The Heir of Linne Spends All His Money.

Listen and I will tell you a story. It is about a young man in Scotland. He lived on a place called Linne. He was called the heir of Linne, because when his father died he would get all the houses and lands on Linne. He was a lazy and careless young man, and spent all his money, and finally lost his houses and lands. I will tell you all about him.

His father was a very good and wise man, and was called the Lord of Linne, because he owned the place. His mother was a rich and beautiful woman. But when they were both dead, the young man, the heir of Linne, became Lord of Linne, and could do as he liked. He loved to have gay young men around him. He liked to spend the day talking, laughing, and playing. And

every night he and his friends drank wine and had much fun. He liked best to play with cards and dice, and gamble from evening to morning. He liked to ride, to run, to sing, and to make a noise. He liked always to spend money and never to keep it. And if he were a king, and as rich, I know he would soon have lost all his gold, all his lands, and all his houses. So the careless young heir of Linne laughed, and played, and drank, and gambled, and very soon all his money was spent. Then he thought he would sell his beautiful home of Linne, with all its houses and all its lands.

His father had a steward, who took care of the houses and lands. This steward was called John o' Scales, and he was a very clever man. John made a great deal of money. He became a gentleman, and had gold and houses and lands. When the heir of Linne came to him, he said, "I am glad to see you, Lord of Linne; eat, drink, and be happy, and do not feel troubled. If you want to sell your beautiful home of Linne, with all the lands and houses, I will give you a good lot of money for them." The heir of Linne said, "My gold is all gone, my money is spent, you may take my land. Give me the money, good John o' Scales, and I will give you my houses and my lands, and they shall always be yours." Then John o' Scales made a bargain with the heir of Linne, and bought his houses and his lands. But John o' Scales was a stingy man, and he paid the heir of Linne only one pound for what was worth three pounds. So John o' Scales counted the money on the table, and gave the money to the young man. John was very glad to get the houses and lands, and said to the heir, "The land is mine, the gold is yours, and now I will be Lord of Linne."

So the young heir of Linne sold his lands, his hills, his valleys, his green fields, and woods. But he did not sell one little house, that was old and worthless. This house was far off in a lonely and dark place. When the young heir's father died, he told him he must not sell this little house. His father, when dying, had said to him, "My son, when I am dead, I fear you will be careless and spend all your money, and sell your houses and lands. But you

must promise me that you will never sell the little house in the lonely valley. For when you are poor and alone, and have no friends, you will find one true and faithful friend in that little house." The young man promised, and so he did not sell the little house to John o' Scales.

The heir of Linne now had plenty of money again. He called his friends and said, "Come with me, my friends, and we will drink, and sing, and be merry." Then they all sang, and drank, and were merry. But at last all the money was spent again, and when his friends saw that he had no money, they all left the careless heir of Linne. He had little money left in his purse. He had only three pennies left, and two were bad, for one was brass and one was lead, and the other was good money. Then the heir of Linne said, "Woe to me, now I have nothing; but when I was Lord of Linne I had all the gold and money I wanted. But I have many true friends, and I will not feel troubled. I will borrow money from my friends, and I will have all I need." Then he went to his friends and asked them to lend him money. But one friend was not at home; another had spent all his money and had nothing to lend; another called him a lazy fool, and crossly told him to go away. So the young man had no friends when his money was all gone. Then was he sad, and said, "Oh, woe to me, for when I had my lands and houses, these men ate and drank and were merry with me. I spent my money for them, and now they will not help me. I cannot go from house to house and beg my bread, for I feel ashamed. I cannot rob and steal, for it is wicked, and I cannot work, for I am not strong and I do not know how. Now, I will go away to the little house in the lonely valley. My father told me to go there when all my friends had left me, and no one would help me. He said that there I would find one true and faithful friend."

The Heir of Linne Learns His Lesson.

Away went the heir of Linne. He walked over hill and valley, field and wood, till he came to the little house in the lonely valley. There he found a low room. He looked up, he looked

down, hoping to find something. But the walls were bare and damp, and he saw nothing. Then he said, "This is sad." The little window was dark and dirty. Ivy vines, bushes, and trees grew over it. No bright sun shone through the window; no cool winds blew through it. He saw no chair, no table, no fire on the hearth, no warm and clean bed. He saw only a rope hanging over his head. There was a noose in the rope. Over the rope he saw written in large letters the words, "Oh! wicked and careless fool, you have spent all your money, and now you are poor and in trouble. I knew all this would happen, and I left you this rope for a good and faithful friend. Now, take the rope and hang yourself, and end all your trouble and shame." The heir of Linne read these words, and he felt very much hurt. He knew he had done wrong, and he felt sorry and ashamed. He took the rope, and said, "This is a true and faithful friend, and I will hang myself with it." Then he tied the rope around his neck, and jumped up to hang himself on a beam. Suddenly the beam broke and he fell down to the floor. The heir of Linne, surprised, lay on the floor, and knew not if he were alive or dead. At last he looked around, and saw on the floor a letter, and in it a golden key. He took the letter and looked at it, and then he found help and was glad. The letter told him about three strong boxes in a hole in the wall. Two of the boxes were full of gold, and one was full of silver. Over the boxes were written in large letters these words, "I am helping you again, my son. Try and do right now, and save your money. And if you will not do right, you will be hanged with this rope at last." The heir of Linne read these words, and said, "I will do as my good father wishes. I will do right now. I will not spend my money again. I will get my home, my houses, and my lands again."

Now, away went the heir of Linne, carrying bags of gold hidden under his cloak. He walked quickly, for his heart was merry. He walked on, and did not stop till he came to the house where John o' Scales lived. When he came to the house, he walked into the room and looked around. He saw John o' Scales and three lords sitting at the table and drinking red wine. The

heir of Linne then spoke to John o' Scales, and said, "Good John o' Scales, will you lend me forty pence?" Then John said, "Go away, you lazy fool! Away! Away! I will never lend you a penny." The heir of Linne spoke again to John o'Scales' wife, and said, "Good lady, be kind to me, and give me a few pennies, for I am very poor and need money." She crossly said, "Away! Away! You lazy fool! You will get no money here. If we hang any fool here, we will hang you first." Then a kind man sitting

THE HEIR DISCOVERS THE LETTER

at the table with John o' Scales stood up and said, "Come here, young man, you were a good and kind lord when you had the houses and lands of Linne. You were a good friend, and gave away your money. I will lend you forty pence, and forty more if you want them. And I ask you, John o' Scales, to let the heir of Linne always sit at your table. For I know that you have his land, and you bought it for very little money; it was a good bargain for you." Now John o' Scales stood up, and wishing to mock the heir, said, "I lost money in buying his lands, and it was

a bad bargain for me. Now, here, I promise, heir of Linne, and I ask all these good gentlemen to witness, that I will sell you your land again for less money than I paid you." Then the heir of Linne said, "I want you to witness, gentlemen, and now, here, good John, is your money. I will buy my houses and my lands again." Then the heir pulled out the bags of gold and put them on the table. Then John o' Scales looked very sad, for he did not want to sell, and could not say one word. The heir counted the money on the table, and put it before John and said, "The money is yours, the land is mine, and now I am again Lord of Linne." Then said he to the kind man who lent him forty pence, "Good friend, you lent me forty pence. Now I am again Lord of Linne, and here I give you forty pounds." Then the wife of John o' Scales cried, saying, "Oh, woe to me, yesterday I was Lady of Linne, and now I am only John o' Scales' wife." The heir of Linne then said, "Good-bye, John o' Scales, when I want to sell my land again, I will come to you." So the heir of Linne got his houses and his lands again, and kept them.

JACK, THE GIANT KILLER.

A boy named Jack lived a great many years ago in the country called England. His father was a farmer. A man named Arthur was king of England.

Jack's home was in the town of Cornwall. He was a very wise and cunning boy. A giant lived in a cave in the mountains near Cornwall. The giant's name was Comoran. He was very large, fierce, and strong. The people that lived in the towns near this mountain were much afraid of giant Comoran. He would go to their farms at night, and steal cows and sheep, also ducks, geese, and chickens. He could pick up a house and carry it up the mountain with ease. He could carry half a dozen oxen on his back at once, and tie many ducks, and geese, and chickens together, and hang them in bunches around his waist. The people feared and hated him everywhere.

COMORAN CARRYING OFF A HOUSE

Now, this little boy Jack thought he would destroy the giant Comoran. So one winter's evening, he went to the mountain in which Comoran lived. He took a pick-axe, a shovel, and a dark lantern with him. He dug a hole twenty feet wide, twenty feet long, and twenty feet deep. The giant was sound asleep in the cave. Jack could hear the giant snoring. It sounded like thunder.

He worked very hard all night, and by morning it was finished. He covered the hole with fagots and sand to hide it. When it was done, he blew a horn at the giant's gate. It awakened the giant, and he jumped up, and ran out in a rage. He saw Jack standing on the other side of the hole. He cried out, "You saucy, impudent villain, I will eat you for my breakfast." Jack laughed, and said, "Will you truly eat me?" This so enraged the giant that he tried to catch Jack. He did not see the hole, so he tumbled into it. Jack chuckled to himself, and said, "Where are you now,

Mr. Giant? Why don't you eat me?" And he struck the giant on the head with the pick-axe and killed him.

When King Arthur heard that Jack had killed the giant Comoran, he was very grateful, and gave him a beautiful belt on which was written in gold letters,

"This is the valiant Cornishman,
Who slew the giant Comoran."

There was a large giant named Blunderbore who lived in a castle in Wales. He was very angry when he heard of Comoran's

JACK, READY FOR THE GIANTS

death, and vowed he would kill Jack. About four months after this, Jack went on a journey into Wales. One day he went to sleep on the road-side. Blunderbore, who had been to see a friend, was coming home along the road and saw Jack. He knew him by the gold letters on his belt. He picked Jack up, threw him over his shoulder, and marched off towards his castle. Jack was much alarmed. The giant locked him up in the castle, and went off to bring his friend to help eat Jack up.

Jack was lucky, for he found a thick rope in the castle. He

made a noose on the end of it, and when the giants returned, he sat in the window and threw it over both of their heads as they passed under the window, and strangled them both. Then he jumped out of the window on the giants. He took the keys from Blunderbore's pocket, and searched the castle. He found three ladies chained in dungeons under the castle. Jack released them. They told Jack the giant had killed their husbands and eaten them. They were pleased to hear that the giant was dead.

One day when Jack was travelling around the country, he came to a castle in which a two-headed giant lived. The giant was very wicked, but he pretended he was good. He welcomed Jack, and gave him an excellent supper, and a good bed. When Jack went to bed, he heard the giant singing:

"When you are fast asleep to-night,
I shall dash your brains out quite."

Jack did not get into the bed himself, but he dressed a block of wood, which was one of the giant's clubs, in his clothes and put it into the bed, and covered it up. He hid himself behind an old trunk. When the giant thought Jack was asleep, he crept up the stairs cautiously so as not to waken Jack, and struck the block some great, hard blows with his club. He thought Jack was surely killed, so he went downstairs again.

The next morning when Jack went downstairs, the giant was astonished to see Jack alive and well. The giant went to the cupboard, and brought out two large bowls of pudding for their breakfasts, one for Jack and the other for himself. Now Jack was very sly. He thought the pudding might have poison in it, so he took a leather bag from his pocket and pinned it in front of him under his chin. He would open his mouth to pretend he was eating the pudding, but he would slip it into the bag. When the bag was filled, he took his knife and ripped it open, so the pudding would fall out. He pretended it was his stomach that he ripped. "I can do that too!" roared the giant, and he cut himself open, and fell dead.

At this time, there was a giant living in England with three heads. He was very powerful. He could fight five hundred men

himself. One day Jack went to his castle and told him that King Arthur was coming with two thousand soldiers. This news frightened the giant very much. He begged Jack to lock him up in his cellar, and keep the keys until the king and his soldiers should go away again. Jack locked the giant in his cellar, then he opened the door and let in a prince, a friend of his. Jack and the prince ate the giant's good things, and drank his best wine. They had a merry time while the giant was lying in the cellar quaking with fear. When the prince went away, Jack told the giant the king and his soldiers had gone. The giant was grateful to Jack, and gave him a very sharp sword with which he could cut off a giant's head.

Jack heard of a very cruel giant. His name was Thundel. He was the terror of the people for miles around. Jack went to this giant's castle one day when the giant, Thundel, was away, and sawed the planks of the bridge that crossed the ditch to the giant's castle. When the giant was coming home, he saw Jack standing on the other side of the bridge, and ran towards him swinging his great club and roaring with rage. When he reached the middle of the bridge, the planks which Jack had sawed gave away, and the giant fell into the ditch and was drowned.

Jack cut off the giant's head and sent it to King Arthur. The king gave Jack great honors for his bravery and cleverness. Jack lived a long time after this, but he fought giants, and monsters, and dragons all his life.

THE THREE BEARS.

In a far-off country, there was once a little girl who was called Silver Locks, because her hair was curly and glossy. She was a pretty child, but she was very disobedient and meddlesome. She would run out to play when her mother told her to stay in the house, and she was a great trouble to the neighbors by meddling with things which did not belong to her.

One day, when her mother was going away, she told Silver Locks to stay in the house. Silver Locks disobeyed her. She went to the woods to gather wild flowers. She saw a pretty butterfly which she chased around the woods until she became tired. She sat upon a log to rest awhile. She looked around and

SHE JUMPED OUT OF THE WINDOW INTO A PILE OF NEW-CUT GRASS

saw a log house. She went to the house. The door and the window were open. She peeped in at the door. She saw no person was there. She went in and looked around to see what kind of things were in the house.

Now, three Bears lived in this house, two big bears named Mr. Bruin and Mammy Muff, and one little bear named Tiny. They were not at home. They had gone out to take a walk. Be-

fore going out, Mammy Muff had made a pot of nice soup, and poured it into three bowls. There were two large bowls for Mr. Bruin and Mammy Muff, and one little bowl for Tiny. Mammy Muff had left the soup upon the table to cool.

When Silver Locks went into the house, she smelled the soup. She went to the table, and tasted the soup in each bowl. She did not like the soup in the large bowls, but she liked the soup in the little one, and drank it all.

There were three chairs in the room. She tried all of them, but she liked the little chair, which was Tiny's, the best. So she sat in it, and rocked backwards and forwards, until she broke it. Then she thought she would go up stairs, and see what kind of things were up there.

In the room upstairs, there were three beds, two large ones for Mr. Bruin and Mammy Muff, and one little one for Tiny. Silver Locks tried them all, but she liked Tiny's best, and being tired, she fell asleep on it.

When the bears came home, they saw some person had been in the house. Silver Locks was sound asleep, and did not hear the bears growling, and crying, "Who has been at my soup?" and "Who sat in my chair?"

Tiny went upstairs. He saw his bed was tossed. He cried, "Who has been in my bed?" "And here she is." Silver Locks opened her eyes, and saw Tiny standing near her, looking very cross and fierce. Just then, the two large bears came upstairs, and Silver Locks was much frightened. The window was open by the bed. She jumped out of the window into a pile of new cut grass. She jumped up quickly and ran home. The three bears stood at the window looking after her in astonishment. When Silver Locks got home, her mother punished her for her disobedience.

"A good action performed in this world receives its recompense in the other, just as water poured at the root of a tree appears again above in blossoms and fruit."

THE SILVER DOLLAR.

A LONG time ago, a poor widow lived in a little hut by the forest. The poor woman had a large family. She had no money and no friends, and there was nothing in the house for the children to eat. She was sick and weak, and the children were very hungry. The mother was very much grieved because she had no food to give her children.

The mother and the children knelt on the floor, and the mother prayed. A good young man was passing the hut, and, hearing the mother's voice, stopped to listen. He heard her praying for bread. The young man put his hand into his pocket and drew out a silver dollar. It was all the money he had, but he was generous. He left the dollar on the door sill and walked quickly away. He hid behind a rock, and waited till somebody should come out and find the money.

When the mother finished praying, the little girl opened the door to go out and hunt sticks in the forest. She saw something shining on the door sill. She stopped, picked it up, and examined it. She discovered it was a silver dollar. She ran back and gave the money to her mother.

The mother and children were delighted. They went to the door and looked all around, but they could not see anybody.

The young man, who was hiding behind the rock, saw the mother and children. He was glad when he saw how happy they all were. He went away. He did not want the mother or the children to see him.

GOOD LUCK.

SOME people talk about luck. Good luck is to get up at six o'clock in the morning. Good luck, if you have only a shilling a week, is to live on eleven pence and save a penny. Good luck is to trouble your head with your own and let others' business alone. Good luck is to fulfil the commandment, and do unto other people as we would wish them to do unto us.

ROBINSON CRUSOE.

Robinson Crusoe lived about two hundred years ago in York. York is a city in England. He went to school until he was eighteen years old. When he was through school, he wanted to go to sea in a ship. He asked his parents if he might go, but they refused, because they wanted him to stay at home. They were quite rich, and he did not need to work.

But a year after this, he ran away from home. He went to Hull, a town by the sea. He met a friend who was going to sea. He asked Crusoe to go with him. Crusoe went, but he did not tell his parents he was going, and they never knew what had become of him.

He had never been on the sea before, so he was sea-sick for a short time. When the ship was out some distance, a storm rose, the wind howled, and big waves washed over the ship. Crusoe was much frightened, and wished he had obeyed his parents and stayed at home. The next day, however, the sea was calm, and he felt better.

He had been on the ship six days when a terrible storm rose, and the ship sprang a leak. Crusoe was so frightened that he fainted. The ship began to sink. The sailors carried him to a life-boat. They all got into the life-boats. They were out of the ship just fifteen minutes when they saw her sink.

They were not far from shore. They could see persons gathering along the shore ready to assist them, when they should get near. They remained in this town for a few days, then Crusoe sailed in another ship. They were going to Africa. A pirate ship chased them and captured them. The pirates took Crusoe and all the sailors prisoners to Sallee. Sallee is a town in Africa. They were taken before the king. The king made slaves of them. They were treated with much cruelty by the king's servants. Crusoe often tried to escape, but he was in Sallee two years before he succeeded.

One morning his master ordered him to go out and catch some fish for supper. He told him to bring nice ones, as he expected company for supper. His master was going to take a trip the

next day in a boat. He had enough provisions put into the boat to last a week. Crusoe thought now he would have a good chance to escape. His master sent a man and a boy to help him and to watch him.

The fog was very heavy that morning. Crusoe took the boat that was loaded with provisions. He caught the fish, but instead of rowing toward the shore he rowed away out upon the sea. They were on the sea in this small boat five days before they met a ship. The captain took them on the ship. The ship was bound for South America. Crusoe remained four years in South America. He bought a plantation and cultivated fruits. The planters needed servants to work for them. They fitted up a ship, and Crusoe was going to make another voyage to Africa, to bring some slaves to South America.

They set sail one day, but the ship was wrecked near an island not far from South America. A large wave washed the sailors overboard and upset the ship. Another wave threw Crusoe upon an island. The sailors were drowned.

He got up and walked along the shore. He was wet and hungry. He had no dry clothes, and nothing to eat. He had no gun or pistol, with which he might kill something. He had nothing but a knife and some tobacco in his pocket. It was getting dark and he did not know what to do. He was afraid wild beasts would devour him during the night. He climbed up into a tree and slept there all night.

When he awoke, it was daylight. He looked out toward the sea. It was calm. He could see the ship sticking up out of the sand. About noon, the sea was still calm, so he swam out to the ship. The ship was lying on her side. He climbed into her and searched her. He found the provisions were dry. He put some biscuits into his pockets, and took a drink of whiskey. He now felt stronger. He made a raft by tying some boards together with ropes. He got the boards in the ship. He put some planks crosswise upon the raft to keep off the water.

When the sea was low, he would go to the ship and get things. He would put them on the raft, and take them to the island. He

found a chest of tools in the ship. He built a house, and thatched it all over, and made a fence around it. He staid in the house during stormy weather, and slept in it at night. He made a table, a chair, and a stool, and he put some shelves around the room, on which he laid his things.

He had no paper, pen, or ink, and he was afraid he should forget what day it was, and then he might work on Sunday, and that would be wicked, so he put up a large wooden cross on the island. He cut the names of the days in big capital letters, and at the close of each day, he cut a notch in it.

One day, when he was rummaging among the things in the ship, he found some pens, ink, and paper; also, some books, among which were three Bibles. These he enjoyed reading very much.

Sometimes he was sad and lonesome. He would sit down and gaze away out on the sea, and cry like a little baby. He would think of his parents, and how they were grieving for him who was away so many years. He repented that he had run off from home.

One day, he caught a parrot. He made a cage, and put the parrot into the cage, and tamed it, and taught it to talk. It would come out of the cage and eat at the table with him.

His shoes, stockings, pantaloons, coat, hat, and umbrella were made of the skins of wild goats. There were herds of wild goats on the island. He set a trap and caught some. He put them into a field. He built a high fence around the field. He tamed the goats, and made butter and cheese of goat's milk.

He travelled around the island, with his big umbrella over his head, his sword by his side, and his gun and axe on his back. He never met a person on the island.

He made a garden. He planted barley, rice, and corn. He got these in the ship. He pounded the corn into meal, and made bread out of it. The rice he made into little cakes.

After he had been on the island many years, he wished to sail on the sea, so he made a boat, and in pleasant weather he would take his dog and gun and sail on the sea. One day he sailed to a strange island. He found some turtles. He took them home

and cooked them. He liked the meat very much. He had not tasted any kind of meat, except goat's meat, for many years.

At one time, he was very sick. He was afraid he should die. He was too weak to go for water when he wanted a drink, and there was no person to wait on him and get him something to eat. He prayed to God to give him strength and take care of him.

HE TRAVELLED AROUND THE ISLAND WITH HIS BIG UMBRELLA OVER HIS HEAD

One morning, when he was quite well again, as he was taking a walk around the island, he was surprised to see footprints in the sand. It had been many years since he had been thrown upon the island, and he had never seen a human face. He stopped, and looked back in terror. He expected some wild black savage would jump on him and kill him. He hurried home. He thought of savages all day, and dreamed of them all night. He would not go far from the house for fear he should meet some of them.

One day he took a telescope, which he had found in the ship, and climbed a hill to see what he could spy. He saw a band of painted savages. They were dancing around a fire on which a human body lay. He saw them kill a man. He saw another man standing near the fire. The savages were going to kill him soon. But Crusoe saw the man start to run and he knew he was trying to escape. The man jumped into a creek and swam across. The savages followed, but they could not swim fast, so the man escaped to the island on which Crusoe was living. Crusoe saw the man. He took his two guns, and ran down the hill. He shot the savages who were following the man. The man was so frightened at the noise made by the gun, that he stood stock still. Crusoe beckoned to him, but he came to him very slowly, for he was afraid he would kill him. These were the first men Crusoe had seen for twenty-five years.

Crusoe named this man Friday, because that was the day he saved him from his enemies.

Friday was a cannibal. His skin was yellow, but he was a handsome fellow. He was twenty-six years old. He wanted to eat the men that Crusoe had killed, but Crusoe would not let him.

Crusoe did not take Friday into his tent to sleep, for he was afraid Friday would kill and eat him during the night. He built a tent near his house for him, and at night he barred the door of his house so Friday could not get in.

Friday soon learned to work. Crusoe taught him many things and he helped Crusoe to build a boat. They cut down a tree and hollowed it out. Crusoe had the old sails from the ship. When it was finished, they were going to sail to Friday's country in it, but one day Friday hastened to Crusoe and told him he saw three canoes of cannibals coming towards the island. Crusoe told him to bring the guns quickly. The savages came on the island. Crusoe and Friday walked through the woods and hid behind the trees. The savages did not see them. They were cooking a man. Crusoe saw another man lying on the ground. Friday said they would kill him next. Crusoe ran to him and cut the flags that were tied around his hands and feet. Crusoe and Friday fired at

the savages and killed all but four of them. These four escaped in one of the canoes. Friday wanted to pursue them in one of the canoes. Crusoe jumped into one with him. They were surprised to find another prisoner bound hand and foot lying in the bottom of the boat. Crusoe unbound him, but the prisoner kept his eyes shut, as he thought it was a savage come to kill him. When Friday looked in his face, he laughed, and cried, he kissed him, and hugged him, and danced and sang with joy. Crusoe asked him who it was. He told him it was his father. They turned the canoe, and went back to the island. Friday ran to the house and got some bread and cakes, and a jug of water for his father.

Crusoe and Friday built a tent for the two prisoners that they had rescued. Friday's father wanted Crusoe to go to his island to live, but the other prisoner told him he would be treated with much cruelty there.

Crusoe had been on the island twenty-eight years, when one morning, he and Friday were on the top of a hill, and they saw a ship. He watched until he saw some of the sailors get into a boat, and row towards the island. They wanted to get fresh water. The ship was bound for England. Crusoe went back to the ship with the sailors. Friday went with him. Crusoe took his umbrella and hat; he took the parrot too. He felt very sorry to leave the island on which he had lived for twenty-eight years. He had been absent from England thirty-five years in all. When he went back, his father, mother, and brothers were all dead. All his friends had thought him dead, and were surprised to see him. He did not stay in England. He visited many countries and islands. One day when they were sailing on the sea they met some savages in canoes. The savages shot Friday and killed him. Crusoe grieved for him.

Crusoe travelled until he was seventy-two years old. Then he went to England and remained there until he died.

JOHN GILPIN'S RIDE.

THERE was a man named John Gilpin. He lived in a large city called London. He was a merchant, and sold many kinds of cloth. Gilpin worked hard, because he loved money and he wished to get rich. He never took any holidays. He had a wife and several children.

At last, when his twentieth wedding day was near, his wife proposed that they take a holiday for once. Gilpin consented, and they got everything ready. They concluded to go out to a country village, called Edmonton, to spend the day. Gilpin hired a carriage for his wife, her sister, and the children. Then he went to his friend and borrowed a horse for himself to ride.

On the morning of their wedding day, Mrs. Gilpin, her sister, and the children got into the carriage and drove out of the city. Gilpin intended to follow on horseback. In a little while he went out and sprang upon his horse. Just then he saw several customers enter his store. He jumped off his horse and went to wait on his customers. They were hard to please, but at last they were satisfied and went away.

Gilpin started for his horse again, but the servant cried after him to stop. She told him that Mrs. Gilpin had gone off and forgotten the wine. He said he would take the wine, and the servant brought it. The wine was in two small jugs. Gilpin put a strap through the handles of the jugs, and buckled it around his waist. He did not want the people to see the jugs, so he put on a red cloak to hide them. Then he went and mounted his horse, having a jug on each side.

He rode slowly along the stony streets of the city. But when he came out into the country where the roads were smooth, his horse wanted to go faster. The horse began to trot. Gilpin did not like the horse to trot, because it jolted him so much. He tried to stop the horse and said, "Whoa," but the horse did not mind and went faster. Again Gilpin shouted, "Whoa," and pulled the rein. The horse was contrary. He would not stop, but went faster and faster. He began to gallop and then to run. "Whoa!

whoa! whoa!" yelled Gilpin; but no use. The horse rushed madly along the road. Gilpin dropped the reins and seized the horse by the mane with both hands. His red cloak sailed straight out behind, and the jugs flapped up and down. His hat flew off and his wig soon followed; the button broke off his cloak and he left that behind also.

"WHOA! WHOA! WHOA!" YELLED GILPIN

Now the people could see the jugs; they wondered a good deal; but they supposed he was running a race. He caused great excitement. The ducks quacked, the dogs barked, the children screamed, and the people indoors rushed to the windows and shouted, "Good! good! well done!"

Gilpin found it very hard to hold on to the horse. He bent down and threw his arms around the horse's neck. Then the jugs

flew up. They came together with a crash above his back. They were broken, and the rich, red wine ran down on the road.

The horse still rushed on. At length he came to Edmonton. Gilpin's wife was looking for him. She saw him coming and was astonished to see him clinging to the horse's neck. She thought he must be crazy. When he came near the house she yelled, "Stop, John, stop, here is the house. Dinner is waiting, and we are all very tired."

Gilpin shouted back, "I am tired, too," but that stubborn horse would not stop. Gilpin's friend, the owner of the horse, lived at Ware, full ten miles away. Thither the horse sped like an arrow shot by some strong archer. Gilpin was out of breath and did not enjoy the ride at all. Yet the horse did not stop until he reached his owner's house.

Gilpin's friend was amazed to see him. He ran out to the gate and cried, "What news! what news! why do you come without your hat and wig?" Now Gilpin loved a joke, and he replied, "I came because your horse would come. My hat and wig will soon be here, as they are upon the road."

His friend was very glad to see him in such a good humor. He went into the house and soon came out with a hat and wig. He handed them to Gilpin, and said, "My head is twice as big as yours, therefore, these must fit." He invited Gilpin to stop and dine with him, but Gilpin replied, "This is the anniversary of my wedding day. It would not look nice for my wife to dine at Edmonton and me to dine at Ware." Then he said to the horse, "I came here for your pleasure, now you must go back for mine." He turned the horse round and started back. Just then an ass brayed very loudly. That frightened the horse. He snorted and galloped off with all his might as he had done before. Away went Gilpin. His hat and wig soon flew off, because they were too big.

Now, Mrs. Gilpin, when she saw her husband ride through town, sent a boy after him. She told the boy that if he brought him back safely, she would give him some money. The boy rode after Gilpin. He soon met him coming back. He tried to catch the horse by grabbing at the bridle. In that he failed and fright-

ened the horse still more. Away went Gilpin, and away went the boy after him at full speed.

Six gentlemen were riding on the road. They beheld the boy chasing Gilpin. They thought he was a thief. They all galloped after him and shouted, "Stop thief! stop thief!" Everybody they met joined in the chase, all yelling, and hooting, and shouting. Still Gilpin kept ahead, for his horse was much frightened. On, on they went, the crowd growing larger. At last they reached the city. The horse stopped at Gilpin's door. Gilpin sprang off. He was glad to get home, for he was sore, weary, and hungry. Thus ended John Gilpin's famous ride.

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK.

A POOR woman, who lived in a little cottage in the country, had an only son. His name was Jack. He was an idle boy and very fond of play; but he was kind, and had a very good temper. They were very poor. Jack sometimes earned a little money. He would pick up stones and weeds from the farmers' fields and gardens. The farmers paid him for his work. He was very kind to his mother, and always gave her the money that he earned.

At last his mother had to sell the cow to buy bread. She sent her son to market with the cow. She told him to sell the cow. On the road, Jack met a butcher. The butcher offered him a hat full of colored beans for the cow. Jack was much pleased. He accepted the offer. He gave the cow to the butcher, and took the beans and ran home with them. He showed the beans to his mother. He told her how he had gotten them. His mother was much grieved and very angry at him. She threw the beans out of the window and sent Jack to bed without his supper.

In the morning Jack awoke. The room was very dark. He jumped out of bed and ran to the window. A great beanstalk had grown up in the night close to the window. He could not see the top of it. He dressed himself quickly. He went back to the window and began to climb the beanstalk. His mother saw him.

SHE CALLED TO HIM TO COME DOWN

She called to him to come down. Jack would not listen to her. The beanstalk was very high, and it was a long time before Jack reached the top. At the top he found himself in a strange country. He met an old woman. She told him that a giant lived in a great house not far away. She said the giant had killed and robbed his father, and if he would be careful, he might go to the house and get back all his father's money.

Jack went to the great house. He saw the giant's wife at the gate. The giant's wife was very good and kind. Jack begged her to give him some food and allow him to stay all night. The woman told him that her husband, the giant, would kill him if he caught him. Jack said he was not afraid. He coaxed her to allow him to stay. At last she consented. She gave him some food and hid him in the bake-oven.

The giant soon came home. He roared out, "Wife, I smell fresh meat." The woman said he smelled a bird that the cat had killed. The giant believed his wife, and sat down to supper. After supper the giant called for his hen. Jack peeped out of the oven. He watched the giant. When the giant said "Lay," the hen laid a golden egg. The giant soon became tired and fell asleep. Jack jumped out of the oven. He crept softly to the giant's side. He caught up the hen and escaped with it. He slid down the beanstalk very quickly. His mother was delighted to see him. She did not know why he stayed so long up the beanstalk.

Jack gave her the giant's hen. He told her about the giant. Jack said he was going to climb the beanstalk again, and go back to the giant's house. His mother did not want him to go back. She was afraid the giant would catch and kill him. But Jack was not afraid. He climbed the beanstalk and went back to the giant's house.

The giant's wife did not want to let him in; but Jack coaxed so hard that at last she consented to let him come in. She hid him in a closet. Pretty soon the giant came home.

After he had eaten his supper, he got two large bags full of money and commenced counting it. At last he got tired counting the money. He lay back in his chair and fell asleep. Jack left

the closet, took the money, and ran off with it. He reached the bottom of the beanstalk safely. He gave the money to his mother. He stained his face with walnut juice and disguised himself. He returned to the giant's house. He did not see the giant's wife. He hid himself in a large kettle. That evening, when the giant had eaten his supper, he called for his fairy harp. The harp was made of gold, and had silver strings. It would play by itself. The giant listened to the harp until he became very sleepy. At last he fell asleep.

Jack quickly jumped out of the kettle. He snatched up the harp and started off with it; but it played so loudly that it woke the giant. He sprang to his feet. He saw Jack running off with his harp and he quickly followed him. Jack slid down the beanstalk. The giant still followed. Jack reached the bottom first. He saw a hatchet on the ground near him. He grabbed the hatchet and cut down the beanstalk before the giant reached the bottom. The giant fell and was killed. Jack and his mother were now very rich. They lived together very happily. The giant was dead and they were safe.

ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY MEN.

More than six hundred years ago, there lived in England a very famous man. His name was Robin Hood. He was the best archer in England, and he was a great robber; but he was a kind-hearted man, and was never cruel. He robbed rich men, but he never robbed or harmed poor men. He always gave his money to poor people, and helped them. So the people all loved Robin Hood. I will now tell you the story of Robin Hood, and how he became a robber.

When Robin Hood was a young man, he was very careless and thoughtless. He loved to drink wine, and gamble with the young men. He spent all his money, and lost all his houses and his lands. He also owed much money, which he could not pay. The persons to whom he owed money wanted to put him in prison

to make him pay. They sent the sheriff to arrest him, and bring him to the judge.

Then Robin Hood ran away and escaped. He went to a large and beautiful forest in a county called Nottinghamshire. It was called Sherwood Forest, and it was full of deer. Robin Hood hid in this forest and was quite safe. He collected a great number of young men who had broken the laws, and were afraid of the sheriff. These men were all robbers, and Robin Hood was their Captain. They all wore green clothes, so that their clothes would be green like the leaves of the trees, and the deer could not see them. Robin Hood had nearly one hundred and fifty men in his robber band. They were all very brave men and skilful archers, and six hundred soldiers could not conquer them. They lived in the forest and hunted the deer, and robbed rich persons who travelled through the forest. They had plenty to eat and drink, and they had a merry time. In those days, many priests, called Abbots, were very rich and proud. They lived in large houses, called Abbeys. Robin Hood was very fond of robbing the rich and proud Abbots, and from them he stole a great deal of money.

In this forest, Robin Hood and his men lived many years. Robin Hood had a wife, and her name was Marian. She lived with him in the forest. Some of Robin Hood's men became very famous. I will tell you the names of a few, because we often read of them in the stories and poems of the olden times. There was Little John, who was very faithful to Robin Hood. The names of some others are Will Scarlett, George Green, Much, Friar Tuck, Brand, and Gilbert.

Will Scarlett was Robin Hood's nephew. Will Scarlett accidentally killed his father's steward one day, and he fled to the forest to escape from the sheriff. Will and Robin met in the forest, but they did not know each other. They had a long and hard fight with broadswords, for each was very skilful. At last Will Scarlett struck Robin Hood very hard on the head, and Robin did not want to fight any more. So he stopped and asked Will Scarlett his name. Will told his name, and then Robin knew

that he had been fighting his own nephew. Both men were sorry, and stopped fighting. They embraced and kissed each other, and Will Scarlett became a robber in his uncle's band.

Friar Tuck was a very fat and jolly monk who lived with these robbers. Now I will tell you some stories about Robin Hood; there are many stories about him, but I can only tell you a few.

One day Robin Hood and Little John went to see an Abbot in his Abbey. The Abbot had heard much about Robin Hood and his skill with the bow and arrow. After they had eaten a good dinner, the Abbot asked Robin Hood to show him how he could shoot with the bow and arrow. The Abbot and the two robbers then climbed to the top of a high tower of the Abbey. Robin Hood shot an arrow, and Little John shot another arrow. Both arrows flew through the air and fell in a field more than a mile from the Abbey tower. This was very wonderful, and the Abbot was much astonished. Two pillars of stone were built up in the place where the arrows fell; and people often saw these pillars and talked about Robin Hood and Little John's skill with the bow and arrow, many years after they were both dead. They called that field Robin Hood's field.

One day Robin Hood stood under a tree, and with him were Little John, Will Scarlett, and Much. Little John said: "It is dinner time." Robin Hood said: "I will not eat dinner to-day until I have robbed some rich man or Abbot, and have the money to pay for the dinner. Go away, and leave me alone."

Little John, Scarlett, and Much then left Robin Hood, and went away. In a short time, they saw a Knight riding through the forest. The Knight looked sad and troubled. The three men went to him, and Little John took off his cap and said: "How do you do? We are glad to see you. We have been waiting for you in the forest three hours." The Knight asked: "Who are you?" Little John answered: "We are the servants of Robin Hood, the bold robber." The Knight then said: "I have heard many good things about Robin Hood. I was going to the town of Doncaster, to take dinner at the house of a friend; but I will go with you and see Robin Hood."

The three robbers walked on through the forest, and the Knight followed them on his horse. He was very sad, and the tears ran down his cheeks. He was not crying because he had met the robbers, but because he was in trouble.

Robin welcomed him and gave him a very good dinner. On the table were venison, pheasant, swan, duck, and plenty of bread

THEY SAW A KNIGHT RIDING THROUGH THE FOREST

and wine. Robin said to the Knight: "Sit down and eat a plenty." The Knight said: "Thank you, I will; for I have not eaten a good dinner like this for a long time."

Robin then told the Knight that he ought to pay for his dinner; for Robin wanted the Knight's money, and was going to take it from him. Then the Knight said: "My purse has very little money in it, and I am ashamed to give it to you, because it is

so little." Robin said: "How much money have you?" The knight answered: "I have only ten shillings." Robin then said: "If that is all the money you have, I will not take one penny from you. Little John, go and count the Knight's money and tell me if he speaks the truth."

Little John then took the Knight's purse from him, and counted the money, and found that he had only ten shillings. Then Robin Hood spoke to the Knight, saying: "Sir Knight, what is the matter? I am surprised to see you wearing thin and poor clothes. Have you been careless and spent all your money, or are you a poor man who has been made a new Knight?" The Knight replied: "I have not foolishly spent my money, and I am not a new Knight. My forefathers have been Knights for a hundred years. I am in great trouble. When playing at a tournament, my son accidentally killed another Knight. My son was put in prison, and I gave all my money to save him. I was obliged to borrow four hundred pounds from an Abbot. If I do not pay him in a few days, he will take all my houses, my lands, and everything I have, and I will become a beggar." Robin said: "But surely you have many friends, and they will help you." The Knight answered: "No. When I was rich, I had many friends; but now, when I am poor and in trouble, my friends have all left me, and will not help me."

This sad story of the Knight's made Little John weep; for he had a very kind heart. Robin Hood also felt very sorry, and thought how he could help the Knight. At last he told Little John to go to the money box and bring four hundred pounds. John brought the money, counted it carefully, and then Robin Hood lent it to the Knight. The Knight was full of joy and thanked Robin Hood very much. Little John asked Robin Hood to let him give the Knight some nice green cloth. Robin Hood told him to give the Knight three yards of each color. Little John measured the cloth with his bow, but he measured too much, and the other men laughed at him. Much told him that he was a wise merchant; but Will Scarlett said that he was giving away the cloth, because he did not pay anything for it. Little John then asked for a

horse to carry the Knight, and Robin Hood gave him a gray horse and a new saddle. The other robbers also gave the Knight many presents, and he was happy and thanked the kind-hearted robbers.

The Knight said to Robin Hood: "When must I pay you the money you lent me?" Robin answered: "You can pay it this day in one year, and under this tree. Little John will now go with you to the Abbot's, for I do not like to see a fine Knight, like you, ride alone." So the Knight and Little John went away together, and rode through the forest to the Abbey.

Now the Abbot was a very covetous man, and wanted the houses and lands of the Knight very much. He was thinking that the Knight would not come to pay him, and then he could take his houses and lands for his own. He chuckled and rubbed his hands saying: "If the Knight does not come to-day, I can take his houses and lands and they will be mine." There was one kind monk in the Abbey. He loved the Knight, and he said to the Abbot that he hoped the Knight would come and pay the money, and not lose his houses and lands. He hoped the Knight and his wife and children would keep their houses and lands and be happy in their old home. The monk said: "I would give a hundred pounds to help the good Knight keep his home."

The Steward came into the room. The Abbot and all the monks, except the kind-hearted one, were hoping that the Knight would not come. While they were talking about the Knight, two men on horseback came through the gate of the Abbey. They were the Knight and Little John. The Knight got off his horse and walked into the room where the Abbot and the monks were talking. He saluted them all. The Abbot said: "Have you brought the money?" The Knight wished to see if the Abbot was a kind man. So he looked very sad and said: "Alas! I have not brought the money." The Abbot said: "It will be hard for you; but why do you come here if you have not the money?" The Knight said: "Good Abbot, I have come to ask you to wait a little longer. Will you be a friend to me and wait till I can get the four hundred pounds, and then give me back my houses and

lands?" Then the Abbot called the Knight bad names, and told him to go away, and said that he was a false Knight. The Knight was very angry and said: "You lie, proud Abbot, I was never a false Knight; here is your money." Then the Knight took the bag of gold, and shook out upon the table four hundred pounds. He asked the monks to count the money and give him a receipt. The monks did so, and then the Knight walked out of the room and rode away. The Abbot looked very foolish and ashamed.

The Knight rode fast till he came to his home, and met his wife at the door. His wife said: "I am afraid you have bad news." The Knight said: "Dear wife, I have good news, and you may feel glad. Robin Hood helped me and lent me the money. I went and paid the Abbot, and now we can keep our home and be happy. If good Robin Hood had not helped me, we would have lost our home and would have been beggars."

By the end of the year, the Knight had all the money ready to pay Robin Hood. He went to the forest to go to Robin Hood and pay him the money. He took many presents to give to the kind robber captain. He took a hundred bows and a hundred quivers full of arrows. Each arrow was three feet long, and the end was feathered with a peacock's feather. A hundred men riding on horses and well armed went with the Knight. They rode through the forest singing a merry song. At last they came to a bridge and they all stopped to see some men wrestling. They were wrestling for a prize. The prize was a barrel of wine, a gold ring, and a pair of gloves. One man, who was a stranger, won the prize. But the other wrestlers were jealous of him, and they attacked him and nearly killed him. The Knight helped the winner and saved him. Then the Knight bought the barrel of wine from the winner and gave it to the people to drink. The people all drank the wine and were merry and the quarrel was ended. Then the Knight and his men started on their way through the forest again, but they had lost some time and were late.

Robin Hood was standing under the tree waiting for the Knight to come and pay the money. He had been waiting three

hours, and he did not know why the Knight was late. Little John said: "Let us have dinner." Robin Hood said: "No, we will not eat dinner now; the Knight has not come." Little John said: "I am sure the Knight is good and true; I think he will come before the sun sets." Robin said: "Go, and bring the first man you meet. If he be a very poor man, I will give him the dinner we got ready for the Knight. Go, John, and take Much and Will Scarlett with you." Little John obeyed Robin Hood, and rode through the forest with Much and Will Scarlett. After waiting a little time, they saw two monks in black clothes riding through the forest on two good horses. Little John said he thought the two monks were coming to pay the money for the Knight. The two monks, with many servants around them, came near to the place where Little John and his two friends were hiding. Little John whispered: "We are only three, and they are many and strong; but we must take these two black monks and bring them to Robin Hood. If we do not take them we will not get any dinner today." Then Little John stood in the road and said to the first monk: "Halt; stand, or I will shoot you dead. My captain is very angry because you made him wait so long." The monk said: "Who is your master?" Little John said: "His name is Robin Hood." The monk said: "Robin Hood is a great thief, and I never heard any good about him. He is a very bad man." Little John was very angry when he heard this, and he said: "You lie, you bad monk. I will punish you." Then an arrow from Much pierced the monk, and he fell from his horse, dead. When the servants of the monks saw this, they all fled; for they were all very much afraid of Robin Hood's men. Only a little boy and the other monk were left. The three men led the monk and his fine horse to Robin Hood. Robin was very polite to the monk. Dinner was now put on the tables, and one hundred and forty strong and brave bow-men sat down to eat. They were all dressed in red clothes. Robin Hood and his men were very attentive and kind to the monk. They gave him plenty to eat and drink, and told him to be merry, and to tell them who he was. After a while the wine made the monk feel very merry, and he told them about his

business. He said: "I am the steward of the Abbot." Robin said: "Fill a cup with the best wine, and give it to the monk." Little John said to Robin Hood: "Captain, I am sure this monk has brought the money for the Knight." The monk was surprised, and swore that he did not know anything about it. Robin said he was sure the steward of the rich Abbot had come to pay the money lent to the Knight. He asked the monk: "How much money have you?" The monk said: "I have only twenty shillings." But this was not true. Robin said to the monk: "If you have only twenty shillings, I will not touch your money; and if you want money, I will lend you forty shillings. But if you deceive me, I will take all the money you have. Little John, take the monk's purse, and count the money in it, and tell me how much he has." Little John spread his cloak on the grass; then he took the monk's purse, and poured out the money on the cloak. He counted it, and said: "Captain, the monk has eight hundred pounds; and it is twice as much as the Knight must pay you." Then Robin asked the monk why he travelled through the dangerous forest with so much money in his purse. The monk pretended that he was going to spend it, to buy things for the Abbot. Robin then said: "Little John, the monk has another bag; open it, and take all his money from him." The steward was very glad to get away from the robbers alive; for he was afraid they would kill him. When he went away, Robin Hood said good-bye to him, and mockingly said: "Tell the Abbot to send another monk, every day, with eight hundred pounds in his purse, for me to rob." The monk hurried away and disappeared in the forest.

A few moments after the monk left, Robin Hood and his men saw the Knight coming. The Knight said: "God be with you, good Robin Hood." Robin said: "Welcome, gentle Knight; but why are you late?" The Knight replied: "I was helping a poor man, when others were doing him wrong." Robin said: "I thank you. I will always be a friend to the man who helps the poor." Then the Knight said: "I bring you the money you lent me; and here are twenty shillings and many other things, for presents to you." Robin laughed, and said: "Keep the money; I have been

paid." But the Knight said: "Here is the money; it is yours, take it." Robin answered: "Keep and spend the money for yourself, Knight; but what are these bows and arrows for that you bring?" The Knight said: "They are for presents to you and your brave men." Robin Hood then said: "Little John, go to the money-box, and bring me the gold which I took from the Abbot's steward." When John came back with the money, Robin gave it all to the Knight, and told him to buy horses and armor for his men, and to have gold put on his spurs. So Robin Hood was very generous to the Knight, and made him happy.

Once the sheriff of Nottinghamshire had a shooting match. He told all the archers in the north part of England to come and shoot. He said he would give a prize to the best archer. The prize was a silver arrow with the head and feathers made of gold.

When Robin Hood heard of this, he said: "I will go and see this shooting; so make ready to go, my merry men." Soon one hundred and forty of Robin Hood's men were ready, and they all went to the shooting match. Robin Hood and six of his men were to shoot at the mark, and try to win the silver arrow. The rest of Robin Hood's men were to stand around and watch. The sheriff was a great enemy to Robin Hood, and Robin was afraid that he would be treacherous.

When all was ready, a rod from a tree was stuck in the ground and each bow-man shot three arrows at it. All the archers were skilful and did well; but Robin Hood did best of all. He split the rod with his arrows three times, and so he won the prize. Then he walked boldly to the sheriff to get it; but when the sheriff gave the silver arrow to Robin, he looked at him very hard. Robin Hood took the arrow, bowed politely to the sheriff, and walked away. The sheriff believed that it was Robin Hood, and he thought he would try and arrest him. He told his men to blow their horns and to try and take Robin Hood. Soon the sheriff's men and Robin Hood's men were fighting hard. In this fight some were killed and many were hurt. An arrow struck Little John in the knee, and he fell to the ground. Then Little John said to Robin Hood: "Oh! my dear captain, do not let the sheriff

take me and hang me; I cannot walk, for my knee is hurt; please take my sword and cut off my head." Robin Hood said: "No, John, I will not do that. I would not cut off your head for all the gold in England." Much said: "No, dear John, we will not leave you." Much took John on his back and carried him a mile, and then put him down on the grass. The sheriff's men were pursuing them, and Much, turning around, shot a few arrows at them. The robbers were now near a large and strong castle in the woods. In this castle lived the Knight to whom Robin Hood had lent four hundred pounds. The Knight's name was Sir Richard. He saw the sheriff pursuing and fighting Robin Hood and his men. The good Knight remembered how kind the robbers had been to him, and he opened the gate of his castle and told Robin and his men to come in. He said to Robin Hood: "I love you more than any other man in the world. You must all come into my castle and stay there. You will be safe in the castle." Then Robin and all his men went into the castle, and, when they were all in, Sir Richard shut and locked the strong gates, and drew up the bridge. The Knight then told his servants to get up a good dinner for Robin Hood and his men. While the servants were busy putting things on the large tables, a horn was heard outside. The sheriff and his men were at the gate of the castle. The Sheriff told Sir Richard that he must give up Robin Hood and his men. Sir Richard said that he would not give them up; but that he would keep them in his castle and protect them. The sheriff was very angry. He told Sir Richard that he was a traitor. He said he would tell the King, and then the King would behead him. Sir Richard told him that he did not care. After some more angry words, the sheriff and his men went away from the castle. On that same day the sheriff started to go to London, and when he arrived there he went to the King and told him about Sir Richard. The King was in a great rage because the Knight would not obey the sheriff and give up Robin Hood and his men. He said to the sheriff: "Tell Sir Richard that I will soon come with my soldiers and destroy his castle and slay all the robbers."

In a short time, Little John's knee was well again, and then Robin Hood and his men left the castle, and lived in the woods, hunting and robbing.

The sheriff watched the castle of Sir Richard every day and night. He watched it like a cat watches a mouse. One day, when Sir Richard was riding in a field near a river, and looking at his hunting hawks, the sheriff came and arrested him. He carried Sir Richard away, and locked him in a strong castle. The servants of Sir Richard fled home to the castle and told his wife that the sheriff had taken him. The lady thought perhaps Robin Hood would help Sir Richard in his trouble. She told the servants to bring a very swift horse. Then she got on the horse and rode through the forest as fast as she could, to find Robin Hood. She soon saw one of the robbers, and he told Robin Hood, who quickly came to help the lady. She said to him: "The sheriff has caught Sir Richard, and is carrying him away. Do not let the sheriff kill my husband." Instantly Robin Hood blew his horn, and all of his band quickly came to him. They all marched very fast to the town of Nottingham. They broke down the gate of the town, and marched boldly through the streets. Robin Hood soon met the sheriff in the street. The sheriff was chuckling, and thinking how smart he had been in taking Sir Richard; but Robin Hood, putting an arrow to his bow, shot the sheriff dead. The people were all very much frightened, and did not fight against Robin Hood and his men. Robin Hood went to the castle, and set Sir Richard free. Then the robber band carried Sir Richard back to his own castle, and he was safe.

When the King heard that Robin Hood had killed the sheriff and set Sir Richard free, he was very angry. He marched to the town of Nottingham with his soldiers, and staid there some time. He rode into the forest often. He was fond of hunting, and he was not pleased because he found very few deer in the forest. He was very angry at Robin Hood and the Knight. He swore that if any man should cut off Sir Richard's head and bring it to him, he would give him Sir Richard's castle and lands. An old soldier told the King that if any man should cut off Sir Richard's

head and get his castle and lands, he could not live there in peace. He said Robin Hood would trouble him all the time, and make him afraid and unhappy. Then the King said: "But where is Robin Hood? He is a bad man, and gives me much trouble. He kills my sheriffs and breaks my laws."

A hunter told the King, that if he wished to see Robin Hood, he must dress himself like a monk, and ride through the forest. This pleased the King very much. He dressed himself like a gray monk, and five other men dressed themselves like monks. Then the King and his five men rode into the forest, singing a song. Robin Hood soon met the King in the forest, and thought he was a monk. Robin Hood said: "Good monk, I am glad to meet you. You must stay here a little time. We are poor, and the monks have much money. You have much land around your Abbeys, and people pay you much money for rent. Please give me some of your gold." The King answered: "I have only forty pounds. I have been at Nottingham, where the King is now staying, and I have spent a great deal of money in feasting some friends of the King. But I wish I had a hundred pounds, for I would give it all to you." Robin took the forty pounds, and gave half of it to his men, and the other half he gave to the King again. Then the King took out of his bosom the King's seal and, showing it to Robin, said that the King invited him to come and see him. When Robin saw the seal, he bowed and said he would obey the King. But Robin did not know that the monk was the King, he thought him a real monk. Robin politely asked the King and his five men to have dinner with him. Robin blew his horn, and instantly one hundred and forty of his men came running very fast to him, and stood ready to obey his commands. The King was greatly surprised, and he thought that Robin Hood's men were much more obedient than his own men. They all sat down and ate a very good dinner, and they had a very merry time. After dinner the King was a little afraid when he saw the robbers jump up and bend their bows. But he soon saw that the men were going to play and not to fight. Rods were stuck in the ground, and the men shot at them. If any man missed the rod, he

lost one arrow, and got a hard box on the ear. All the men missed the rod and got their ears boxed, except Robin Hood. At last Robin failed to hit the rod, and then his men all laughed and said that he must have his ears boxed too. Robin said: "Good monk, I have missed the rod. I give you my arrow, and you must box my ear." The King said: "It is not right for a monk to strike a man, but if you wish it, I will box your ear," and he turned up his sleeve. Robin answered: "Yes, I want you to box my ear." Then the King gave Robin a hard box on the ear and nearly knocked him down. Robin was much astonished and said: "Good monk, I did not think you had so hard a fist and so strong an arm." Then Robin looked very hard at the King, and while he was looking Sir Richard came and knelt before the King. Then Robin Hood knew that it was the King and not a monk. Robin asked the King to pardon him and all his men for breaking his laws. The King said that if Robin Hood and his men would all come and live with him in his large and fine palace in London, he would pardon them all. Robin promised to go with the King and to take one hundred and forty-three of his men with him. He told the King that it would perhaps be very pleasant to live with him in London; but he said that he liked best to live in the forest and hunt the deer.

The King was now tired of wearing his gray monk's gown, and wished to dress himself in green clothes like Robin Hood's men. Robin gave him and his five men green clothes, and the monk's became Robin Hood's men. The King, Robin Hood, and all of the other men now marched to Nottingham. The people were very much astonished to see Robin Hood and all his men marching in the town. Some person told them that Robin Hood had killed the King. The people were very much frightened, and the King laughed and thought it was very funny. But soon there was great confusion in the town because the people thought the King was dead. Then the King showed himself to the people and told them that he was not killed, but was alive and well. Then the people were much pleased and became quiet. They had a great feast in the town; all ate and drank and were merry. The

King was very jolly and told Sir Richard that he would not punish him, and that he might keep his castle and his lands. Robin Hood was very glad. Robin Hood and his one hundred and forty-three men followed the King to London, and lived with him there more than a year.

Robin Hood's men did not like to live in the city. They liked to live in the forest much better. One after another they left the King, and at last only Little John and Will Scarlett remained with Robin Hood in London. Robin was not happy in the city. The King was very kind to him, but Robin loved the forest better than the fine palace of the King. Robin now asked the King to let him go and visit a church. The King told him he could go, but that he must come back in a week. Robin thanked the King and went again into the forest that he loved so much. He travelled until he came to a place called Barnesdale. He arrived there one morning. The air was cool, the sky was bright, and the singing of the birds made him feel glad. He blew his horn long and loud. Some of his men were in the forest and heard his horn. They came running to him and told him they were very glad to see him again. Robin thanked them and told them he had come to live with them in the forest again. He said he did not like London, and did not feel happy in the King's palace. So Robin and his men were free again, and hunted and robbed in the forest as in the days of old.

Robin lived so much in the fresh air that he was very strong and healthy, and lived to be a very old man. He was eighty-seven years old when he died. When Robin was eighty-seven years old, he did not feel well one day, and went to see a cousin. This cousin was a wise woman who knew much about medicine, and Robin asked her to give him some medicine. This woman was very treacherous and hated Robin. She said that she would make Robin well, and told him that she must bleed him. So she cut a vein in his arm and let the blood slowly run out; but she did not bind the wound right. Too much blood ran out and Robin became very weak. In the morning Robin felt very weak, and blew his horn to call Little John. Little John was hiding near the house,

for he was afraid something was wrong, and when he heard the horn he came into the house to see Robin. Robin asked Little John to put a bow and arrow in his hand. Then he sat up in bed and shot an arrow out of the window. The arrow fell a long way from the house. Robin then said: "Bury me where the arrow fell." So Robin Hood died by the treachery of his cousin; and his men buried him under some trees near the forest where his arrow fell. All the people mourned for Robin Hood, for they all loved him greatly. They placed a stone over his grave, and cut his name on the stone.

ROMULUS AND REMUS.

A GREAT many years ago Numitor was a king in Italy. Numitor had a daughter whose name was Rhea Silvia. She had two little babies. They were twins. Their names were Romulus and Remus. Their father was a god and his name was Mars.

Numitor had a brother named Amulius. Amulius wanted to be king. He seized Numitor and put him in prison. He stole Romulus and Remus and put them into a basket and carried them to the river. The name of the river was the Tiber. The river was very high. He threw the basket into the river. The basket floated down the river and caught in some bushes which were growing on the shore. The river fell, and the basket staid in the bushes.

When Amulius threw Romulus and Remus into the Tiber, he thought they would drown. He took their mother, Rhea Silvia, and buried her alive.

A wolf went down to the river for a drink of water. She saw Romulus and Remus. She carried them to her den. She laid them with her cubs and fed them with her milk.

One day a shepherd found them and took them home. His wife took care of them. When they grew to be men, they were famous for their courage. They were leaders of a band of robbers. One time this band of robbers was fighting with the king's

servants. The king's servants captured Remus and took him before the king.

As soon as Romulus heard that his brother Remus was captured, he collected a band of men and marched to the king's palace. They seized King Amulius and put him in prison. They released Numitor, and made him king again. Numitor was Romulus' and Remus' grandfather. But they did not know Numitor was their grandfather. He was grateful to them for delivering him from prison. He asked them who they were, and they told him a shepherd had found them in a basket near the Tiber river when they were babies. Numitor recognized them as his grandsons. He asked them what they wanted as a reward. They said they wanted enough land on the banks of the Tiber river on which to build a city. Numitor then gave them the land.

Romulus and Remus marked out the city with a plow. The band of robbers helped them build a wall around the city. Romulus and Remus disputed which of them should name the city. They asked the gods who should name the city. The gods told them to look up to the heavens at sunrise, and the one who saw the greatest number of vultures should name the city. Remus saw six vultures and Romulus saw twelve. Romulus named the city Rome.

Remus was very angry because he could not name the city. One day when they were building the wall, Remus jumped over it and made fun of it. A man named Egis heard Remus making fun of the wall, and he became very angry and struck Remus with a spade and killed him. When the city was finished all the robbers and murderers went to Rome to live. There were only a few women in the city. The men wanted wives, but no ladies would marry them, because they were bad. The people who lived in Rome were called Romans. The people who lived near Rome were called Sabines. The Sabine women were very beautiful.

One day Romulus gave a party. He invited the Sabines to the party. They all went to the party, and when the Sabine men were playing ball, the Romans stole the Sabine women and carried them into Rome. As soon as the Romans all got into the city, they shut the gates.

The Sabine men were very angry with the Romans for stealing their women. They besieged the city, but they could not get into the city, because the Romans kept the gates shut. They staid outside the gates so they could rush into the city if the gates were opened.

A girl named Tarpeia lived in Rome. Her father was one of the men who guarded the citadel inside. Tarpeia saw the Sabines standing at the gate. She talked to them. The Sabines wore gold collars and bracelets. Tarpeia told them she would open the gates, if they would give her the shining things they wore on their arms. The Sabines said they would, and then she opened the gates and let them in. When they all got inside, they threw their shields and collars and bracelets on Tarpeia and killed her, for they despised her treachery. Then they started to the citadel, but just as they were rushing to it, a mighty stream of water burst from a temple, and swept them out of the city. The Romans shut the gates again, and the Sabines were defeated.

Romulus was a good, kind king. He was King of Rome for forty years. One day he was out in a field, when a storm arose, and his father, the god Mars, came down and took him up to heaven in a chariot.

THE BABES IN THE WOOD.

Many years ago, a gentleman and his wife lived far away, over the ocean. They lived in a large, old house. The house stood in a large garden.

Many tall trees grew near the house, and the little birds made nests on the tops of the trees. Large and small bushes and pretty flowers grew in the garden. A beautiful fountain was in front of the house. The water went high in the air and fell down in the basin. The sun shone through the trees on the water in the basin. A large forest was near the garden. The forest was very dark and gloomy, and the people were afraid to live in it.

The gentleman and his wife had two pretty children. The

little boy had brown hair and brown eyes. The little girl had long black curls and blue eyes. They were good children and the parents loved them. The parents got very sick, and many friends stood near the bed to see them. The uncle stood near the gentleman. They told the uncle: "You must be kind to the children now. When they grow up they will be rich and they will be kind to you when you grow old." The parents gave the children to the uncle to keep. The parents died and were buried.

The uncle took the little boy and girl home with him. He kept them and cared for them and was kind to them for a year: but he was a wicked man, and hated children. He was jealous of the children, for they were rich and he was poor. The father had given the beautiful house, and the large garden, and much money to the children. The wicked uncle wanted to steal the children's money and house. He wanted the children to die, but he was afraid to kill them. He gave some money to two cruel robbers and asked the robbers to carry the children far into the dark forest and kill them. The robbers jumped on two black horses. They put the children in front of them on the horses and took them away.

The boy and girl talked and laughed with the robbers. One robber liked to hear the children talk. He was ashamed to kill them, and he was kind to them. The other robber was cruel and wanted to kill them. The two robbers quarrelled, and the kind robber killed the cruel robber. The two poor children were frightened and cried. They wanted to run away from the men.

The kind robber took the children far into the woods. They were tired and hungry. The robber told them to stay in the woods and he would bring some bread to them. The robber went away. The children lay down on the grass under a tall tree and went to sleep. They slept a long time. When they woke, they watched for the robber to bring some bread to them. They could not see him. They were very hungry and gathered some berries to eat. They staid many days in the forest; but they could not find the robber. The robber never went back into the woods to take bread to the hungry children. This was very cruel and wicked.

The children walked all day, and when the dark night came, they lay on the ground and fell asleep. The poor children's clothes were torn. They were tired, and hungry, and thin. The little boy and girl died in the woods. Two pretty robins saw the dead children, and covered them with leaves. A good man was walking through the forest, and he found the children. He thought the uncle of the children had killed them. He went to the city.

The wicked uncle was glad the children were dead. He went to the city to buy some houses. The good man saw the cruel uncle and caught him. He took the uncle to prison. The uncle staid in prison a long time and died there.

CINDERELLA, OR THE LITTLE GLASS SLIPPER.

MANY years ago, in a distant country, there lived a gentleman who had a good, kind wife and one daughter. They lived together very happily. When the daughter was quite young, her mother died. The gentleman soon married another lady. She was proud, and very cruel to her step-daughter. She had two daughters of her own. They were old and very ugly. They were jealous of their step-sister, because she was so young and pretty. They were very unkind to her. She had to do all the work, while they sat idly in their rooms. Her step-mother would not allow her to eat at the table with the rest of the family. She had to eat alone in the kitchen. She got the poorest food in the house and slept on an old mattress in the garret. Her step-sisters had everything that they wanted.

The poor girl was very patient. Her step-sisters were jealous because she had such pretty, small hands and feet. They would not allow her to sit with them. When her work was done, she had to sit in the kitchen. She always chose the chimney corner, because it was so warm. Her step-sisters made fun of her. They called her Cinder-girl, and then Cinderella.

The king's son had a grand ball. Cinderella's step-sisters

were invited. Cinderella was not invited, but she helped her step-sisters to get ready for the ball. They were very ungrateful, and teased her, and asked her if she did not want to go to the ball with them.

At last they were ready and started for the ball. Cinderella felt very sorry because she could not go with them. She watched them until they were out of sight. She went back to the kitchen and sat down in the chimney corner and cried very bitterly. While she was sobbing, her fairy godmother appeared. She had a crutch under one arm, and a wand in her right hand.

She told Cinderella that she should go to the grand ball, too. She said, "Go into the garden and bring me a pumpkin." Cinderella soon returned with a very fine pumpkin. Her godmother scooped it out quickly. Then she struck it with her wand. It instantly changed into a beautiful coach. She opened a mouse trap which was in the kitchen, and found six mice in it. She touched them with her wand, and they instantly changed into fine, prancing horses.

She told Cinderella to bring a rat trap, containing two large rats, to her. The fairy touched one of the rats and it became a coachman. She touched the other and it became a postilion. She told Cinderella to go into the garden again, and bring her half a dozen lizards. She soon brought them. The fairy touched them with her wand, and they became footmen with long mustaches.

The fairy godmother then touched Cinderella with her wand. In a moment, her worn-out dress was changed into a beautiful ball dress. The brightest jewels glittered in her hair. She put a pair of beautiful glass slippers on her feet.

Cinderella jumped into the coach. Before the coach started, the fairy told her that she must leave the ball before twelve o'clock. She said that if she did not leave before twelve o'clock, her coach would become a pumpkin, her horses would become mice, her coachmen would become rats, her footmen would become lizards, and her beautiful dress would be changed into her old one again.

IN A MOMENT HER WORN-OUT DRESS WAS CHANGED TO A BEAUTIFUL BALL DRESS

Cinderella promised to leave the ball before twelve o'clock. They drove off. When she arrived at the ball, everybody wondered at her beauty. No one knew who she was. All thought her a princess. The prince met her at the door, and led her into the ball-room. That night he fell in love with her. He took her to supper, and he invited her to the ball the next evening.

At fifteen minutes to twelve o'clock, Cinderella left the ball-room. She rode home in her fine coach. Her godmother met her at the door. She praised Cinderella for being punctual. She consented to let her go to the ball the next evening.

Cinderella told her all about the ball. They talked for a long time. At last they heard the two step-sisters coming. The godmother touched Cinderella with her wand. Her fine clothes were changed to old ones again. Her godmother disappeared. Her proud sisters came into the room, and they told her about the beautiful princess who had been at the ball. Cinderella did not tell them that she was herself the princess. She asked them what was the name of the princess. They said nobody knew her name.

The next evening her step-sisters went to the ball again. Cinderella went too. She wore a beautiful dress. She went to the ball in her coach. The prince stayed with her all the evening. She forgot to start home until she heard the clock beginning to strike twelve. She instantly left the table and hurried out of the room. The prince followed, but he could not overtake her. She ran as fast as she could through the conservatory. As she ran, she dropped one of her glass slippers. She had no time to pick it up. Her fine clothes were changed to old ones again. She ran out of the palace. Her coach had disappeared, so she had to walk home. She had none of her godmother's gifts except one glass slipper. The prince found the other glass slipper in the conservatory. He put it into his pocket. He told the people that he would marry the lady who could wear the slipper.

Cinderella's sisters told her what the prince had said. The king sent a servant with the glass slipper to all the houses. Many ladies tried to put it on, but could not do it. Cinderella's sisters tried very hard to put it on, but it would not fit them.

At last Cinderella asked the servant to give the slipper to her. She said she would try to put it on. Her step-sisters laughed at her and ridiculed her. The servant told Cinderella to sit down. Cinderella did so. He put the slipper on her foot. It fitted perfectly. Cinderella took the other slipper out of her pocket and put it on the other foot. Her step-sisters were much surprised and vexed. Just then the fairy godmother appeared and touched Cinderella with her wand. Her clothes were instantly changed to her ball costume. Her step-sisters saw that she was the beautiful princess whom they had met at the ball.

They threw themselves at her feet. They begged her to forgive them for their cruelty to her. Cinderella was a very kind-hearted girl. She pitied her step-sisters. She raised them up and embraced them. She said she forgave everything, and hoped they would learn to love her.

The servant conducted Cinderella to the palace. The king's son was delighted to see her. They soon were married. Her sisters lived with her until they too were married. A flower sprung up in the conservatory where the prince had found Cinderella's slipper. It was called "The Lady's Slipper" ever after.

SINDBAD, THE SAILOR.

Sindbad's First Voyage.

Sindbad lived in a city called Bagdad. When his father died, he left him some money. Sindbad was very extravagant, and in a short time spent nearly all his money. At last, he became tired of being idle. He thought he would like to go to sea. Balsora was a seaport, so he went to Balsora, and embarked on a ship with some merchants who traded by sea. At first he was troubled with sea-sickness, but soon recovered and was never troubled again in that way.

On their voyage, they stopped at several islands, where they sold or exchanged their goods. One day they were becalmed near

a little island, which looked like a green meadow. The captain allowed some of the sailors to land upon the island. Sindbad went with them. They took some wood with them to kindle a fire. They had been on the island but a short time, when it suddenly trembled and shook them terribly. The captain saw the island tremble, and called to them to return to the boat quickly, or they should be drowned; for, instead of its being an island, they were on the back of a whale.

They all reached the ship but Sindbad. He was on the back of the whale when it dived down into the sea. He grabbed a piece of wood, and held on to it. He floated on the sea for a day and a night. The next day a wave threw him on the bank of an island. The bank was high and rugged. He took hold of the roots of trees and pulled himself up to the top. When he reached the top, he was almost dead with fatigue, and very weak for want of food. He lay upon the ground and rested for a short time, then he went in search of food. He found some herbs and a spring of excellent water.

After eating and drinking, he felt stronger, and walked farther into the island. At a great distance, he saw a horse tied to a stake. He went towards him. A man was lying on the ground near the horse. He got up and asked Sindbad who he was. Sindbad told him of his adventure. The man took Sindbad by the hand, and led him into a cave in which there were several other men. These men were surprised to see Sindbad. They offered him some food, which he took and ate. The people who lived on this island were Indians. Sindbad asked these men what they were doing on the island. They said they were servants of the king. The king's name was Mihrage. They said they were a great distance from the king's palace, but they would return the next morning. The next morning they returned to the king's palace. They took Sindbad with them, and presented him to the king. The king asked Sindbad who he was, and how he came to be on the island. Sindbad told him of his adventure. The king told his officers to treat him kindly.

The king lived in a city which was on the sea-coast. The city

had a fine harbor, in which ships arrived daily. Sindbad went to the harbor often, to see if any of the ships had come from Bagdad. He visited the learned Indians, for he liked to hear them talk.

One day a ship came into the harbor and Sindbad went to see it. They were unloading the ship, and carrying the goods into the warehouse. He looked at some of the bales, and saw his own name on them. He also recognized the captain of the ship. He went to him, and asked him whose bales those were. The captain did not recognize Sindbad. He said: "Those bales belonged to a merchant named Sindbad, who came to sea with me, but was drowned." "Captain," said Sindbad, "I am Sindbad; I was not drowned, and those bales are mine." The captain did not believe him. He thought Sindbad was telling a lie to get the money for the bales. Then Sindbad told the captain about his adventure on the back of the whale. Then the captain believed him, and gave the bales to him. Sindbad traded his bales for other goods. He embarked with the captain and went back to Bagdad. He sold the goods for twenty thousand dollars. He bought some fine land and built a beautiful house on it and he and his family lived in it.

Sindbad's Second Voyage.

Sindbad thought he should always live in his beautiful house in Bagdad, but he at last became tired of an idle life. He went to sea again. He traded his goods from island to island. One day he landed on an island covered with fruit-trees. He did not see a person or an animal on the island. He lay down and went to sleep. He slept a long time. When he awoke the ship was gone. He was surprised and grieved. He looked around, but could see nothing but trees. He climbed up to the top of a high tree. He saw something white at a distance. He came down from the tree and went towards it. When he got near it he thought it was an immense bowl. He touched it and it felt very smooth. It was a roc's egg. A roc is a monstrous bird. While Sindbad was looking at the egg, the roc alighted on it. He tied himself to one of its legs, which were as big as the trunk of a tree.

The bird flew away and carried Sindbad with it. It alighted on the ground in a deep valley. Sindbad quickly untied the knot, and the roc flew off and left him there. This valley was strewed with diamonds, and was full of snakes. The snakes were so large they could swallow an elephant. During the day, these monstrous snakes remained in their dens, but came out at night. Sindbad went into a cave, but soon came out again, for he was afraid of the snakes.

THE BIRD FLEW AWAY AND CARRIED SINDBAD WITH IT

Merchants would throw large pieces of meat into the valley. The diamonds would stick to the meat. Eagles would fly down for the meat, and carry it to their nests on the rocks. The merchants would frighten the eagles away, and then take the diamonds from the meat.

Sindbad sat down, and being tired, he fell asleep. He had been asleep but a short time, when something fell beside him with great noise and awoke him. This something was a piece of fresh

meat. He gathered the largest diamonds he could see, and put them into the bag in which he carried his provisions. He then tied himself to the large piece of fresh meat, and laid himself on the ground with his face downward. A large eagle came down, and seized the meat, and carried it to its nest. The merchants screamed to frighten the eagle and it flew away. One of them then went to the nest to get the diamonds. He was frightened when he saw Sindbad. Sindbad told the merchant of his adventure. The merchant admired his courage and took him home with him. Sindbad opened his bag and told the merchant to take as many of the diamonds as he wanted. The merchant took but one. He said he would get a great deal of money for it.

Sindbad went back to Bagdad. He sold the diamonds for an immense sum of money. He gave a great deal of money to the poor people.

Sindbad's Third Voyage.

Sindbad soon forgot the dangers of his first and second voyages. He embarked in good weather on his third voyage. They had been out some days, when a storm arose, which damaged the vessel. They sailed into the first port to repair damages.

They had just begun to saw boards and to drive nails, when a great crowd of little frightful savages, covered all over with red hair, came running towards them. They were dwarfs just two feet high, but they were strong and nimble. They jumped on the vessel and put the sailors and officers off. The sailors were so terrified, that they offered no resistance. These little savages then made signs to them that they might go where they pleased; then the sailors and officers sailed in the vessel to another island. The sailors and officers all marched together into the country. They had not gone far, when they came to a great pile of buildings, which they entered. The doors and windows were very large. They went into a large room and were much alarmed to see pieces of human bodies lying around. They looked at them and found they had been roasted. They were very tired and were about to leave the room, when the owner of the house appeared.

He was a tremendous black giant. He was as high as a tall palm-tree. He had only one eye in the middle of his forehead. His eye looked as red as a burning coal. His teeth and nails were long and sharp. His mouth was like that of a horse. He looked at them for some time, then he picked Sindbad up by the nape of the neck, and held him out as if to weigh him. Sindbad was very lean. He put him down and took up another. He picked up the captain last. The captain was very fat, so the giant ran a long fork through him, kindled a fire, and roasted and ate him. After he had eaten the captain up, he went into another room, where he slept all night, and his snoring sounded like thunder. In the morning he got up and went out, and left them in the house.

They were distressed, for they were afraid the giant would come back and eat another of them. They divided themselves into small parties and hid. In the evening the giant found all of their hiding-places. He collected them all together, and drove them before him like sheep into his house. He took another man and ate him; after which he retired and slept as before. Some of the sailors thought they would go down to the sea, and drown themselves, but Sindbad told them to remember that God forbids a person to kill himself.

The next day the giant went away, and staid all day. The sailors went down to the sea. There was a great deal of timber floating near the shore. They got this timber and made some rafts. Just as they were finished, the giant came and drove them into his house again. He took another man, and roasted and ate him. When they heard him snoring, ten of the bravest sailors took each a fork, and put it into the fire. When the points were red-hot, they took them out and thrust them all at once into the giant's eye, and blinded him. He awoke with a frightful outcry, and jumped out of bed. He groped around trying to catch them, but they ran to the sea and got on the rafts. They could hear the giant howling dreadfully.

They hoped the giant would die, then they would not need to go to sea on the rafts, but could live on the island until a ship

should pass the island and take them off. But just as it was getting daylight, they saw the blinded giant coming towards them, led by two other giants as large and terrible as himself.

The men on the rafts rowed off immediately. But as soon as the giants saw them, they picked up rocks and threw them after them. Every raft was destroyed except the one on which Sindbad and two other sailors were. They rowed out to sea and escaped from the giants. The next day they landed on an island. During the day they discovered a cave. At night they went into the cave and fell asleep. They were soon awakened by a large serpent, which seized one of them, crushed his bones to pieces, and swallowed him up. The serpent then went away. Sindbad and his companion were terrified.

The next day they tried to escape, but the water washed their boat among the rocks, and they could not get it out. At night they went on land. To avoid the serpent, they climbed to the top of a very high tree. In a short time the serpent appeared. He ascended the tree with ease. He took Sindbad's companion and devoured him, then went away. The next day Sindbad gathered a lot of dry fagots with which he formed a circle around the tree, and made a fire. The serpent came, and tried to force his way through the fire all night. When daylight appeared, he went away.

Sindbad went down to the shore. He was afraid to stay another night on the island, for fear the serpent should succeed in eating him. He saw a ship at a great distance. He took out his handkerchief and waved it. The captain saw him and sent a boat for him. The sailors took him safely to the ship. The captain and the merchants treated him very kindly. The ship was bound for Balsora.

The captain asked Sindbad to help him move some goods which had belonged to a merchant who was dead. Sindbad consented, and was delighted to find the bales were his own. He was on the same ship in which he sailed on his second voyage. The captain gave the goods to him. Sindbad sold them, and with the money he bought another large estate. He gave a great deal of his money to his friends and to the poor.

Sindbad's Fourth Voyage.

Sindbad soon fitted out another vessel, and again set sail. After several weeks of fine weather, a furious storm drove the vessel on a strange shore. The cargo and most of the crew were lost. Those who escaped were in great distress.

The next morning the people who lived in the country came down to the shore, and drove them a great distance into the country. The people were all black. When they arrived at their town, they gave them an herb, which they made signs for them to eat. They were very hungry. Sindbad watched the blacks. They did not eat the herb themselves, so Sindbad only pretended to eat it, but his companions ate it. The blacks then set them at liberty, and gave them plenty of rice and other provisions to eat. Sindbad talked to his companions, and found they were all crazy. The herb they had first eaten made them crazy. The blacks were cannibals. They fatted them and ate them. But Sindbad would not eat much, so he grew leaner every day, and the cannibals did not eat him.

One day all the inhabitants went out of town together except a few old people. Sindbad instantly set off to escape. He went to the woods. He travelled many miles, avoiding with great care any towns which he saw. One day he came near to the sea. He saw some white people gathering pepper. He went to them. They welcomed him kindly and introduced him to their king. The men all rode their horses without saddles, and Sindbad taught them to make saddles. The king was delighted with the saddles and gave Sindbad many handsome presents, and the most beautiful lady of his court for a wife, but he wished to escape and return home.

Sindbad had a friend whom he liked very much. His friend's wife died. His friend was worried because he would have to be buried alive with his dead wife. It was the law in that country, that the living husband must be buried with the dead wife, and the living wife with the dead husband. Sindbad went to the funeral. They walked up a high mountain. They came to a hole

covered with a large stone. They raised the stone and let down the corpse; then they put the living husband into another coffin with a pitcher of water, and seven loaves of bread, and put him down into the hole. They covered the hole over with the stone again, and returned to the city.

Sindbad was shocked by this barbarous custom. He was afraid his wife would die, and they would bury him alive. He tried to escape, but the people watched him, and he could not. In a short time, his wife fell sick, and in a few days died.

Sindbad begged the king not to bury him. He told the king he had another wife and some children at home, but they forced him into a coffin, and put him down into a big pit with his wife and shut the mouth of the pit. He lived many days in the pit, for he took great care of the bread and water, eating only a little at a time. At last it was all gone. He thought he should starve to death now, but he heard some person moving the stone from the mouth of the pit. In a little while, two coffins were lowered. He waited till the pit was covered, when he found a woman had been buried with her dead husband. Sindbad seized the woman and killed her, and took her bread and water.

A few days after this, as he was sitting on his coffin he heard a great noise. He followed the noise and found a big hole in a rock. He crawled through the hole, and found himself on the sea-coast. Soon after he saw a ship. He signalled it, and the captain sent a boat for him. The ship was bound for Bagdad. After a short, pleasant voyage, Sindbad arrived safely at Bagdad.

Sindbad's Fifth Voyage.

Sindbad had become very famous now. He fitted out another ship. The first place they landed on was an island, where they found a roc's egg. The sailors broke the egg with hatchets and cooked it. After they had eaten it, they embarked. They had only gone a short distance when they saw two large rocs coming like two clouds. When they saw their egg was broken, they flew away again. The sailors thought they were safe when they

saw the rocs flying away. But they were disappointed; for in a little while they saw the rocs coming back. The rocs were carrying rocks between their talons. When they came right over the ship, they let the stones fall. One of the stones fell in the middle of the ship, which split into a thousand pieces.

All the crew were killed or drowned except Sindbad. He was thrown upon a beautiful island. He searched the island for inhabitants. He came to the bank of a brook. He saw a little old man sitting there. He spoke to the little man, and the little man bowed to him. He asked Sindbad to carry him over the brook on his back. Sindbad put him on his back and carried him over. When they got to the other side, the little man would not get off. He sat astride Sindbad's shoulders and held him so tight that he almost strangled him.

Sindbad was so surprised and terrified that he fainted and fell down. When he recovered the little man was still on his back. He made Sindbad carry him all day. At night he would tell Sindbad to lie down, and in the morning he would kick him when he wished him to rise.

Sindbad carried this little man for many days. One day Sindbad made some grape wine. He drank it, and he felt much stronger. He began to sing and dance. The little old man asked Sindbad to give him some of the wine. The little old man liked it and drank so much of it that he became drunk. Then Sindbad threw him off and crushed his head with a big stone.

Sindbad then went to the sea-coast. A vessel was lying near. The captain took him on the vessel, and treated him kindly. They stopped at an island on which many cocoanut trees were growing. Many of the sailors went into the forest for cocoanuts. They each took a bag to carry them in. The cocoanut trees were straight and very tall, and they could not climb them. There were in the forest many monkeys which climbed the trees for safety when they saw the sailors coming. The sailors pelted the monkeys with stones. This made the monkeys angry, and they threw cocoanuts at the sailors. The sailors went back to the ship with their bags full of cocoanuts. They went to another port and ex-

changed the cocoanuts for pepper and aloes. They then sailed for Balsora. Sindbad sold his pepper and aloes for a great amount of money.

Sindbad's Sixth Voyage.

Sindbad remained at home for some time. Then he went on a voyage with some friends. The ship was wrecked and all the crew were drowned except the captain, two sailors, and Sindbad. They were thrown at the foot of a high mountain. The shore was covered with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds. The mountain was perpendicular, so they could not climb it. The next day the two sailors died, and the day after the captain died. Sindbad was then left alone. He fell asleep. When he awoke, he saw a number of negroes standing around him. He talked to one of the men. They took him to the king's palace, and presented him to their king, who treated him very kindly. He remained on the island for some time. The name of the island was Serendib. When Sindbad was leaving the island, the king gave him a handsome present for himself and another present for the king of Bagdad. The name of the king of Bagdad was Haroun Alraschid. Sindbad arrived home safely, and gave the present to Haroun Alraschid. He was much pleased with his present. Sindbad now determined to stay at home for the rest of his life.

Sindbad's Seventh Voyage.

Sindbad had determined never to go to sea again, but one day the king, Haroun Alraschid, sent for him, and told him he wanted him to go to the island of Serendib, and take a present to the king. Sindbad wished to be excused, but the king would not excuse him. So he set sail, and arrived at the island of Serendib. The king was glad to see Sindbad again, and much pleased with Haroun Alraschid's present. Sindbad remained a short time at the king's palace, and then set sail for Balsora, but did not arrive there. They were captured by corsairs, who took them to a port and sold them for slaves.

A wealthy merchant bought Sindbad, and treated him very kindly. He gave him a bow and arrows and took him into the forest, and told him to climb up into a tree. The merchant told Sindbad there were many elephants in this forest. He told Sindbad to shoot at them when they came near, and if he killed one to come and tell him.

ONE OF THE LARGEST OF THEM WOUND HIS TRUNK AROUND THE TREE AND TORE IT UP BY ITS ROOTS

Sindbad stayed in the tree all night. The next morning he shot an elephant and then went and told the merchant. The merchant went to the forest and took its tusks and teeth. The tusks and teeth of elephants are ivory. Ivory is very expensive. So the merchant would sell them, and get a great deal of money for them. Sindbad went to the forest every day for two months, and killed an elephant every day.

One morning while Sindbad was waiting for elephants to

cross the forest, he saw a great number of them coming toward the tree where he was. One of the largest of them wound his trunk around the tree, and tore it up by its roots. Sindbad fell to the ground. The elephant picked him up, threw him on his back, and carried him off into the forest. He stopped suddenly, and took hold of him with his trunk, and set him down on the ground. He looked around, and saw that the ground was covered with the teeth and tusks of elephants.

He returned to the city, and told the merchant about the great amount of ivory he had seen. The next day he and the merchant went back into the forest and carried a great deal of the ivory to the city with them. The merchant sold the ivory, which made him very rich. He set Sindbad free for helping him to get the ivory.

The merchant also gave him a ship full of ivory. He returned to Balsora and sold the ivory. He arrived home safely, and ever after remained at home with his family and friends.

THE STORY OF MONTDIDIER AND MACAIRE.

MANY years ago two men lived in a city in France. One man was named Montdidier and the other Macaire. The two men were not friends. They hated each other very much. All the people knew they were enemies.

One day Macaire met Montdidier in a dark and lonely forest and murdered him. Macaire dug a grave and buried his enemy in it. He hid the body very carefully and covered the grave with leaves. No one saw Macaire, and no one knew he had murdered his enemy. He was very glad his enemy was dead. He thought no one would find him out and punish him, and he had forgotten that God saw him.

Montdidier's dog saw the murder; but the dog hid and lay still in a bush. Macaire soon went away. Then the dog went and lay down on the grave of his murdered master. The dog staid and watched the grave many days. The dog had nothing to eat, and he became very hungry and thin. He went away to

get some meat. When he found some meat he ate it, and then he ran back to the grave and watched it.

Sometimes the dog went to a city a long way off where Montdidier's friends lived. They saw that the dog was very thin and they gave him meat; but the dog would not stay with them. He always ran back to the grave of his dead master. By and by the friends of Montdidier became anxious about him. They watched the dog when he came for meat, and followed him. The dog led them to the grave of the murdered man, and scratched away the earth. The men dug away the earth and soon found the body of Montdidier. They were surprised and very sorry. They took the body to the city and buried it in the cemetery. The dog now staid with the friends of Montdidier. He did not go back to the grave in the woods again. The friends of Montdidier tried to find out who had murdered him; but they could not.

One day they were walking in the city and the dog was with them. They met Macaire in the street. The dog immediately began to growl and his hair bristled. He was very cross and tried to bite Macaire; but the men pulled him away. Several times after this the dog met Macaire. Every time the dog was very cross and wanted to bite him. The dog was never cross to any other person; but was always gentle. The friends of Montdidier now remembered how Macaire hated him, and they began to suspect Macaire. They arrested him and took him before the Judges.

The Judges did not know who had murdered Montdidier. No one saw the murder, and the dog could not talk and tell them about it. The Judges thought that perhaps Macaire murdered him because he hated him. They saw that the dog was always cross when he met Macaire.

The Judges said Macaire and the dog must fight. If Macaire killed the dog, it would show that he was innocent. If the dog conquered him, it would show that he was guilty and did kill Montdidier. They gave Macaire a strong stick and a shield. They gave the dog a barrel to run into when he was tired. Then they put Macaire and the dog in a place with a fence around it

and let them fight. Many thousands of people stood around to see the fight. The combat was very long and hard. The dog fought fiercely and Macaire tried hard to kill him, but he could not kill the dog. The dog bit him and scratched him. At last the dog conquered him. Macaire became very tired and fainted. When he opened his eyes, he confessed to the Judges that he had murdered Montdidier. The Judges said Macaire was guilty. They condemned him, and the executioner cut off his head.

The people all admired and praised Montdidier's brave and faithful dog. The dog was very clever. He helped the friends of Montdidier to find out and punish the murderer.

OLD MOTHER GOOSE.

Once upon a time there lived an old widow lady who had two daughters. The eldest was her step-daughter. The youngest was her own daughter. Her step-daughter was very pretty, but her own daughter was very ugly. The old lady was very cruel to her beautiful step-daughter. She made her go and sit in the road and spin all day, but she allowed her own daughter to sit idly in her room all day.

One day the pretty daughter was spinning in the road. She worked very hard, and she cut her fingers several times. The blood ran on to the spindle. She went to the well with the spindle and dipped it in to wash off the blood. She accidentally let it fall into the well. She ran home and told her step-mother all about it. The old woman was very angry and told her she must go back to the well and find the spindle.

She went back, but she could not find the spindle. At last she jumped into the well. She sank in the water down, down, down, down. She was very much frightened and swooned away. When she recovered she found herself in a beautiful meadow covered with beautiful flowers. She walked along for a long time.

At last she came to a baker's. The bake oven was full of bread. The bread cried: "Draw me out, draw me out, or I shall

burn, for I have been baking long enough." She stopped and drew out the bread. The heat scorched her neck and face; but she did not mind this. She walked on and soon came to an apple tree covered with apples.

The apples cried: "Shake us, shake us, for we are quite ripe and tired of hanging here." She shook all the apples off the tree and piled them up in a heap. She then walked on. She soon reached a little cottage. An ugly old woman was peeping out of the window. She looked very fierce, and the girl was very much frightened. She started to run away, but the old dame called to her to stop. She told her she must not be frightened, for she would not hurt her. She said: "Come and stay with me, and if you keep my house in good order, I will give you food and clothing. You must remember to shake my feather-bed well every morning, for when the feathers fly, it snows upon the earth. The snow covers up the roots of trees and plants and keeps them alive and warm. The people call me Old Mother Goose."

The young girl consented to stay. She went into the house and began working. She kept the house very nice and clean. She shook the bed well every morning. The little downy feathers flew in showers, and the people on the earth said they had never seen so much snow.

At last the young girl got homesick. She was very kind-hearted, and wanted to know if her step-mother and step-sister were well. She told Mother Goose that she wanted to go home on a visit. The old dame said she would take her back home, but she would first pay her some wages for working so well. She led her under a large doorway. Gold poured down in showers. It stuck all over her. Mother Goose then gave her the spindle which she had dropped down the well, and closed the door behind her.

The young girl found herself upon the earth near her mother's cottage. She ran home quickly. She knocked at the door. Her step-mother and her ugly daughter peeped out of the window. They saw the gold and ran to let her in. They pretended to be very anxious about her. She had been away so long.

The young girl told them all about her adventures. The widow then determined to send her ugly daughter to Mother Goose.

She sent her out in the road to spin; but the girl was too lazy to work. She pricked her fingers and rubbed the blood on the spindle. She then threw it down the well. But she was a great coward, and she was afraid to jump down the well after it. Her mother came behind her with a thick stick and pushed her. She fell heavily into the well and into the meadow below. She got up and walked along. She soon reached the baker's. The bread in the oven cried out: "Draw me out, draw me out, or I shall burn, for I have been baking long enough."

But she turned up her nose and said: "Do you think I am going to scorch my face and soil my hands with a paltry batch of bread?" She left the bread in the oven and walked on. She soon came to the apple tree covered with apples. The apples cried: "Gather us, gather us, for we are all ripe and tired of hanging here."

The girl replied angrily: "A pretty thing to ask me indeed! Do you think I will tire myself by gathering you?" She left the apples on the tree and walked on. She soon came to the old woman's cottage. She went up to the old dame and told her she had come to be her servant. She was not frightened when she saw the old woman, because she knew the old woman had been very kind to her sister.

Mother Goose consented to let her stay. She said: "You can stay; but you must keep the house in good order and shake my bed well." The first day the lazy girl worked very hard. The second day she was very lazy. She did not shake the feathers well. There was very little snow on the earth and all the green things on it died. At last Mother Goose said: "You are a very lazy girl and I do not want you. You had better go home." The girl was very glad, for she was lazy and did not want to work. She said: "Give me my wages and let me go."

The old woman led her to the doorway. She was instantly covered by a shower of pitch. She was very angry and disappointed. The door closed behind her. She found herself in a

field near her home. She ran home quickly. She was afraid the people would see the pitch on her. Her mother heard her coming and opened the door. She expected to see her daughter covered with gold. When she saw that she was covered with pitch, she was very angry.

She blamed her step-daughter and beat her with the broomstick. The poor girl's cries were heard by a nobleman who was passing the cottage. He entered the cottage to see what was the matter. He saw the beautiful step-daughter and fell in love with her. He took her to the palace and introduced her to his parents. They were much pleased with her, and they consented to let their son marry her.

The nobleman was very glad because his parents liked the beautiful girl. They were soon married, and lived very happily.

ROMEO AND JULIET.

In a city called Verona there lived a prince. The prince governed the city. His name was Escalus. Two great and rich men lived in the city. One man's name was Capulet. The other man's name was Montague. Capulet and Montague hated each other. They had many servants. The servants quarrelled and fought with swords. One day two of Capulet's servants, named Gregory and Sampson, met two of Montague's servants, named Abram and Balthazar. They quarrelled with each other. Many people crowded around them and began to fight. Capulet and his wife heard the noise. They went to see why the people were quarrelling. Capulet was very angry with the servants and the people. Montague and his wife heard the noise too and ran out of the house. Montague and Capulet met. Montague called Capulet a villain. Capulet was angry. Capulet and Montague wanted to fight. Lady Montague and Lady Capulet were frightened. They did not want their husbands to quarrel. They held tight to them and would not let them go. The prince, Escalus, heard of the quarrel. He went to the place where the people were

fighting. He took many officers with him. He was very angry with the people. The prince commanded the people to cease quarrelling and to go to their homes. The prince, Escalus, told Capulet to come home with him. Capulet went with the prince. Lady Capulet went along with them. Montague, Lady Montague, and Benvolio stayed. The Montagues had a son. The son's name was Romeo. Benvolio was Romeo's cousin. He loved Romeo very much. Lady Montague asked Benvolio when he had seen her son, Romeo. Benvolio told Lady Montague he had seen Romeo that morning, walking in the woods before sunrise. Benvolio said Romeo was very sad. Montague said the people often saw Romeo walking in the woods, groaning and crying. Montague did not know why Romeo was sad. He told Benvolio to find out the cause of Romeo's grief. Just then they saw Romeo coming toward them. Montague and Lady Montague went away and left Benvolio to talk to Romeo alone. Benvolio and Romeo began to talk to each other. Benvolio asked Romeo why he was so sad. He told Benvolio that he loved a beautiful woman, but the beautiful woman did not love him. Benvolio told Romeo not to fret about this woman. He said he would show him a more beautiful woman. He told Romeo he would love her much better.

Capulet had a daughter named Juliet. She was very beautiful. A young man named Paris loved Juliet. Capulet and Lady Capulet liked Paris. They wanted Juliet to marry Paris. Juliet's mother told her Paris was very handsome, and that the prince, Escalus, was Paris' uncle. She said Paris was a prince and was very rich. Juliet did not love Paris. Capulet made a party and invited Paris. Capulet sent a servant out to invite the people to the party. The people were all to wear masks at the party. The servant invited Romeo and some of his friends. Romeo and his friends got masks and went to the party. Tybalt, Juliet's cousin, was at the party. Tybalt hated Romeo. Romeo saw Juliet and fell in love with her. He thought she was the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. He loved her better than the other beautiful lady. Romeo called a servant to him and asked the servant the name of the beautiful lady. The servant

said he did not know her name. Tybalt heard what Romeo said to the servant. He knew Romeo's voice. He was very angry because Romeo was there, and he wanted to fight Romeo for coming to the party. Capulet saw that Tybalt was angry. Capulet asked him why he was angry. Tybalt said to Capulet: "Romeo, the son of Montague, is here. He comes here to spite us. He is a villain, and I will get my sword and kill him." Capulet said: "You must not harm Romeo. He is a good young man, and you must treat him nicely in my house." Tybalt was very angry with Capulet, and he told Capulet he hated Romeo. Capulet was angry with Tybalt, and commanded him to be quiet. Tybalt then left the house. When Tybalt left, Romeo talked with Juliet. He loved her better than ever, and Juliet loved Romeo, too. Romeo kissed Juliet, and he was very fond of her. A servant came to them, and told Juliet her mother wanted her. The servant told Romeo, Juliet was Capulet's daughter. Romeo was sorry, for he knew that his father, Montague, hated Capulet. Juliet did not know who Romeo was, and she asked a servant who he was. The servant told her, Romeo was the son of Montague. Juliet was sorry, but still she loved Romeo. The people went home from the party.

Romeo went one night to see Juliet. He was afraid to go into the house, so he climbed over the wall into Capulet's garden. Juliet did not know Romeo was in the garden. She was standing at the window talking to herself about Romeo. Romeo stood near the window, and he heard what Juliet said. He spoke to her. He told her how much he loved her, and asked her to marry him. Juliet consented. She told Romeo she would send her servant to him the next morning. She told him to tell the servant where they would meet to go and get married. Juliet then bid Romeo good-night, and Romeo went away. The next morning Romeo went to a priest. He told the priest he wanted to marry Juliet that evening. The priest consented to marry them. Romeo went away from the priest's house and met Juliet's servant. He told the servant to tell Juliet to meet him at the priest's house that evening, and the priest would marry them. When evening came,

Juliet went to the priest's house and met Romeo, and the priest married them. Juliet returned to her home alone, for she did not want her parents to know she was married. When Romeo was going home he met Tybalt. Tybalt called Romeo a villain, and wanted to fight with him. Romeo did not want to fight with Tybalt, because he was Juliet's cousin. Tybalt compelled Romeo to fight, and Romeo fought with him and killed him.

The prince, Escalus, heard about the quarrel. He was very angry with Romeo, and banished him from Verona. When Juliet heard Romeo was banished from Verona, she was very sad. After Romeo had killed Tybalt, he hastened to the priest's house. The priest had a cell in his house, and Romeo hid in the cell. He was afraid Tybalt's friend would kill him. Juliet gave her ring to the servant, and told the servant to carry it to Romeo. The servant went to Romeo and gave him the ring. The servant told Romeo that Juliet was very sad and wanted to see him. The priest told Romeo to hurry to Juliet, and then flee from Verona. The priest was afraid the officers would catch Romeo and kill him. At night, Romeo went to Juliet's window. He climbed through the window into her room. Capulet did not know Romeo was in the room with Juliet. Capulet was talking with Paris in another room. Paris told Capulet he loved Juliet and wanted to marry her. Capulet told Paris he could marry Juliet in a few days. Romeo bid Juliet good-bye and went to a city called Mantua. Juliet was very sad and wept. Her mother came to her room and saw her weeping. She thought Juliet was weeping for her cousin Tybalt. She told Juliet that Paris wanted to marry her, and to be prepared to marry him in a few days. Juliet told her mother she did not love Paris, and refused to marry him. Lady Capulet went to Capulet. She told him Juliet refused to marry Paris. Capulet was very angry with Juliet, and they went to Juliet's room. Capulet scolded Juliet, and told her if she refused to marry Paris, he would banish her from her home. He said he would compel her to marry Paris. Juliet fell on her knees and asked her father and mother to hear her. They were both too angry to listen to Juliet, and they left her and the servant in the room alone.

The servant tried to coax Juliet to marry Paris. She told her that Romeo was far away, and would never come back. Juliet then pretended that she would marry Paris. The next day Juliet went to the priest. She told him her father had commanded her to marry Paris. She said she would not marry him and told the priest she would kill herself. Then the priest said he would give her some medicine that would make her sleep and appear as if she were dead. He said to take it the night before she was to be married, and they would think she was dead and carry her to the vault. He said he would write a letter to Romeo, and tell him to come and take her away with him, when she should awaken.

Juliet was satisfied and took the medicine home with her. She told her father and mother she would marry Paris. They were very glad and sent for Paris and told him Juliet had consented to marry him. The night before Juliet was to be married, she dismissed her servant and her mother from the room. Her mother kissed her good-night, and they left Juliet in her room alone. Juliet then took the medicine the priest gave to her, and fell asleep. The next morning the servant went to Juliet's room to waken her. She spoke to Juliet but she did not answer. The servant thought Juliet was dead. She returned, and both Lady Capulet and Capulet thought that Juliet must be dead. They all hastened to Juliet's room. They felt her hands, and tried to waken her. Juliet did not move, and they all thought she was dead. Capulet sent for Paris and the priest. He told them Juliet was dead. Paris was very sad, for he loved Juliet and wanted her for his wife. They carried her body to the vault. They put it in and closed the door and went home. Romeo did not receive the letter that the priest sent him. Romeo's servant, Balthazar, heard that Juliet was dead. He went to Mantua and told Romeo. Romeo was very much grieved. He went to a drug store and bought some poison. He went to Verona. He went to the vault and broke open the door. Just then Paris came to the vault to put flowers on Juliet's coffin. He saw Romeo, and was very much surprised. They were both angry and fought. Romeo killed Paris and laid him in the vault. Romeo saw Juliet. He went to

her coffin. He thought she looked very beautiful. He kissed Juliet, then took the poison, and fell dead on the floor by the coffin. The priest heard that Romeo had not received the letter. He went to the vault to take Juliet out when she should awaken. The priest thought he would take Juliet to his house and keep her until Romeo should come. When he arrived at the vault he saw the door was broken open. He was surprised. He went into the vault and saw Paris lying on the floor dead. He went to Juliet's coffin and saw Romeo lying near it on the floor dead. The priest was horrified. Just then Juliet awoke and called for the priest. He went to her. She asked him where Romeo was. He told her that Romeo was lying on the floor near her, dead. Juliet looked and saw Romeo's body. She went to him and leaned down and kissed him. The priest begged Juliet to come away with him, but she refused to go. She saw Romeo's dagger. She seized it and thrust it into her heart. She fell on the body of Romeo and died. The watchman saw a light in the vault and went in. He saw the priest and the dead bodies of Romeo, Juliet, and Paris. He called a man to watch the priest, while he ran to tell the prince.

The prince sent for Montague and Capulet. He told them Romeo and Paris were lying in the vault dead. They all hastened to the vault. Many people went with them. The priest then told the prince and the people that he had married Romeo and Juliet on the day that Tybalt was slain. He told them Juliet said she would kill herself, and he gave her the medicine to put her to sleep. He told them he came to the vault to take Juliet away when she should waken, but when she saw Romeo dead she seized his dagger and stabbed herself. The prince pardoned the priest. He told Capulet and Montague that God had punished them for hating each other. Capulet and Montague were sorry, and they shook hands and were friends. The parents set up golden statues of Romeo and Juliet.

ROSA AND BELLA.

THERE was a little girl whose name was Rosa. She was lame. One of her limbs was drawn up so she could not walk without a crutch. Though she was lame, she was almost always happy. She seldom thought about her lameness. She was very playful, and her playmates were very fond of her. She was a very kind-hearted girl too, and loved to help others.

One morning Rosa was going to school. It was a long way to school and it was very hot. Rosa began to think about her crutch. She thought that it was a very troublesome thing to carry. She thought it was a long way to walk to school with a crutch when it was so hot. She thought she would never be able to run a step in all her life, and that her poor little lame foot would never touch the ground. Rosa pondered over these things a great deal. She thought that it was very hard to be crippled and helpless.

She was cross and silent at school that morning. Her teacher was surprised. The scholars wondered what could be the matter with their merry little playmate. It was very bright that day, and the girls were all gay and happy. They raced up and down in the long yard in front of the school house. They laughed and shouted and were very merry. It made Rosa feel very sad because she could not run like the other girls. She did not want to talk or play. She only wanted to sit still and think.

Just before school closed the teacher said to Rosa: "Are you in a hurry this noon?" Rosa answered sullenly: "No, ma'am." Then the teacher told her that she wished to speak to her before she went home.

So when Rosa had piled up her books very neatly in her desk, she walked up to the teacher. The scholars were all gone but one. That one was a "new girl," with light hair and large blue eyes. Rosa looked at the eyes but they did not seem to notice anything. It was very strange.

The teacher said to Rosa: "This little girl is Bella Saunders. She is blind. She cannot study, but she would like to come to school sometimes. She came alone this morning, but that is not

safe. Her mother is too busy to come with her. Are you willing to take care of her to and from school?"

Then Bella, the blind girl, said: "It is only for a short time. I must go back to the Institution in a few weeks."

Rosa knew very well what the Institution was. She knew it was a place where blind children go to school. Then she asked Bella: "Have you been at the Institution before?" Bella replied: "Oh, yes. I just came home for a vacation. Mamma wanted to see me so much." Rosa asked: "Do you like to come to school?" "Yes. I like to hear the girls talk," replied Bella. "You shall come to school every day," cried Rosa. "I will take care of you, but I can't walk very fast because I am lame." Bella was an affectionate girl. She looked sorry and asked: "Are you really lame?" "Yes; feel my crutch," said Rosa.

The blind girl touched the crutch. She next passed her pitying fingers over Rosa's fat little face. Then she said: "I don't see how you can walk at all with that crutch." Rosa laughed, and said: "Just hear me." And she went rapidly across the floor making as much noise as she could. Then the two little girls went out into the warm sunshine, hand in hand. Many people looked at them as they passed. Bella did not know that the people looked at them, and Rosa did not care. She had forgotten her troubles and was a merry little girl again.

Now as they walked along, Rosa began to think about the little blind girl at her side. She thought it must be dreadful to be blind and never to see father or mother, and never to see green trees and beautiful flowers. She thought it must be awful to grope through the world all one's life. It made her heart ache.

At length she asked Bella: "Are there many girls at the Institution?" "Oh, yes; a great many," replied Bella. "And are they all blind?" asked Rosa. Bella laughed and replied: "Of course they are all blind. That is why they go there." For a few minutes Rosa was silent. She could not speak. She began to cry very softly. Bella's ears were sharp and she heard Rosa crying. She asked anxiously: "What is the matter?" "I am so sorry for you," cried Rosa. Bella replied: "Everybody is

sorry for me. I am sorry for you too. It must be hard to walk with that crutch." Rosa brought her crutch down with a sharp click and replied: "Oh, that is nothing—nothing at all." Bella laughed and said: "It makes a great deal of noise anyhow."

Rosa saw her little companion safely home. After that the little lame girl and the little blind one were great friends. Rosa delighted to be with Bella. She went with her everywhere, to take care of her. She was always happy when she could do something for her little blind friend. So these two afflicted girls enjoyed themselves a great deal together. Rosa was no longer discontented. She thought she should not complain when there were so many blind girls in the world.

At last it was time for Bella to go back to the Institution. Rosa was very sorry indeed. She sat on Bella's little bed and watched them packing the trunk. Bella's things were placed carefully in the trunk. Then Rosa knew she would not see them again for a long time, and her tears fell fast.

Bella sat down on the bed beside Rosa. She took an envelope out of her pocket and put it in Rosa's hand. There was a splendid photograph of the blind girl in the envelope. Bella said: "That is for you to remember me by." Rosa wiped her eyes and said: "It looks exactly like you. I wish I had my picture for you." Then she remembered that Bella could not see her picture if she had one. It made her feel very sad, and she cried bitterly.

It made Bella feel very sad to hear Rosa cry, and she said: "Don't cry, Rosa; please don't." Rosa tried to smile and replied: "I will try not to cry any more." Then Bella said: "I cannot see you now, but I will see you some time." Rosa opened her eyes wide and asked: "When will you see me? Will your eyes be cured?" Bella shook her head. "Then what do you mean, Bella. When will you be able to see?" Bella smiled sweetly, and said: "When we get to heaven, Rosa." Rosa looked at Bella. She looked so very confident. At last Rosa said: "Oh, Bella, I can't understand why God made you blind." Bella replied: "And I can't understand why He made you lame. We don't know everything, do we, Rosa?"

Rosa knew that God does everything for the best, so she said no more. And just then the carriage came to take Bella away. The little girls promised, with many kisses, always to be friends. Then with many tears the two little friends parted.

Rosa's face was very sober for many days afterwards, for she missed Bella so much. Rosa has had many good friends since that time, but she loved none of them so well as she did the little blind girl.

THE STORY OF THE LITTLE HUNCHBACK.

In a city called Cashgar, there lived a tailor who was a very cheerful, hospitable fellow. He had a very nice wife whom he loved dearly. One evening a little deformed man sat down near his shop. He had a lute. He began to play on the lute and to sing. He was a very sweet singer. The tailor heard him singing, and he was very much pleased. He knew his wife was very fond of music. He asked the hunchback if he would go home with him. The hunchback consented. He sang very sweetly for the tailor's wife.

At last supper was ready. They asked the hunchback to come and have some supper. They had a large dish of fish on the table. The hunchback, while he was eating some of the fish, swallowed a bone. The bone stuck in his throat, and he choked to death in a few minutes.

The tailor and his wife were very much frightened. They were afraid the people would think they had killed him. They did not want the people to find the dead body of the hunchback in their house, so, after dark, they took the dead hunchback to a Jew doctor's house. The doctor did not live far from the tailor's house. The tailor's wife gave the doctor's servant a piece of gold. She told the servant to tell the doctor to come to them immediately. The maid went upstairs to her master's room. The tailor and his wife quickly followed her. They carried the dead hunchback to

the top of the stairs. They leaned the body against the wainscot and hurried away.

The servant did not know they had followed her. She hurried to her master's room. She gave him the money, and told him what the tailor's wife had said. The doctor was skilful, but he was very poor. He was glad to get the money. He started down-

THEY LEANED THE BODY AGAINST THE WAINSCOT AND HURRIED AWAY

stairs to see his patient. The hall was very dark. He told the servant to follow him with a light. He ran to the top of the stairs. He did not know the dead body of the hunchback was there, and he ran against it and knocked it down to the bottom of the stairs. The servant soon brought a light. They hurried downstairs. The doctor saw the body lying on the hall floor. He examined it. It was still warm. He thought the fall downstairs had killed the sick man. He did not know the hunchback was dead when he was brought to the house.

He was terribly alarmed and did not know what to do. His wife was very cunning. She told him to take the dead hunchback to the top of a neighbor's house and lower him down the chimney. The doctor did so. He took him to the top of a house which belonged to a Mussulman.

The Mussulman kept a great many things in his house which belonged to the Sultan. Thieves had often entered his house, and stolen many of the Sultan's things. When the Mussulman returned to his house that evening, he saw the hunchback standing upright in his chimney. He thought it was a thief trying to hide from him. He was very much enraged. He determined to punish him severely. He caught hold of the little hunchback and began to thrash him with his cane. The hunchback did not move or cry out. The Mussulman was surprised and stopped whipping him. He examined him and found him dead. He thought he had killed him. He knew the Sultan would punish him if he knew he had killed the hunchback. He was scared and did not know what to do. He waited until midnight. Everything was then still in the street and he took the dead body on his back and carried it to the door of a shop near his house. He stood the hunchback up against the door and ran back home. He met nobody on the street, and no one saw him put the dead hunchback at the shop door.

A short time before morning a Christian merchant passed by the shop. He was drunk. He knew that people would soon be going to early prayers. He knew he would be punished if they saw he was drunk.

He saw a policeman approaching him. He did not want the policeman to see him. He stood close to the shop door to conceal himself. He jostled against the hunchback. The heavy body tumbled upon him. The Christian merchant thought a thief had attacked him. He threw him down and began to beat him. He called for help. The policeman heard him and hurried to the shop. He saw the Christian beating the hunchback. He asked what the matter was. The Christian said the hunchback had attacked him. The policeman pulled the Christian away. He saw the hunchback

was dead and thought the Christian had killed him. He arrested the Christian and took him to prison. In the morning, the policeman told the judge all about the quarrel.

The judge knew the hunchback was one of the Sultan's favorites. He told the Sultan all about the quarrel. The Sultan had been very fond of the hunchback. He was very angry because he had been killed. He ordered the executioner to hang the Christian merchant. The merchant was led out. He was tied to the gibbet. He said he was innocent, but they did not believe him. They thought he wanted to go free. They began to talk about the murder.

While they were talking, the tailor arrived. He said he had killed the hunchback. Presently the Jew doctor came up, and said it was he who had killed the hunchback. Before long the Mussulman came along. He said the other men were innocent, and that he had killed the hunchback. The people were much surprised by these stories. The judge conducted the four men to the Sultan. Each man told his story to the Sultan. The Sultan was much surprised. Finally he declared them all innocent of the hunchback's death.

The tailor had a friend who was a barber. The barber was a very clever man. The Sultan sent for him, and he came and looked at the hunchback. He said he was acquainted with him. He asked leave to examine the body, and the Sultan gave him leave.

The barber touched the hunchback, and began to laugh. The Sultan was provoked. He asked the barber why he laughed so hard. The barber said they were all deceived, and that the hunchback was not dead. He said he could restore him. He put an instrument down the hunchback's throat, and pulled out a bit of fish and bone. He showed them to the Sultan. He took a vial of balsam out of his pocket. He rubbed the hunchback's throat with the balsam. The hunchback sneezed, and soon recovered. The Sultan was astonished. He was very much pleased with the barber. He hired him to stay at the palace. He praised the Mussulman, the Jew doctor, the tailor, and the Christian mer-

chant, for being so honest as to confess they had killed the hunchback. He gave a rich robe to each of them and dismissed them. They were very glad that they were again free. They hurried home and told their wives all about it. The barber staid at the palace with the Sultan until he died.

HOP-O'-MY-THUMB.

MANY years ago, a woodcutter and his wife lived near a large forest. The woodcutter was away from home all day. He was in the forest cutting down trees. His wife was alone all day, and she was very lonesome. She had no children. She had often wished for a child She asked God for a child. God gave her a little, wee boy. His mother named him Hop-o'-my-thumb, because he was so little. He could hide in a tea cup. He was a very good little boy and his father and mother loved him very much.

One day, when his father was going to the forest, he wished he had a boy to help him. He was very busy then. Hop-o'-my-thumb heard his father say this, and said: "I will help you, father." His father laughed and made fun of him, but allowed him to go to the forest. Hop-o'-my-thumb said he would hold the horse, but his father said he could not reach the bridle. He put the horse under a tree. Hop-o'-my-thumb climbed up the tree, and sat on one of the branches. He talked so nicely to the horse, that he stood perfectly still.

In a little while, a boy came along swinging a cane. He struck the branch on which Hop-o'-my-thumb was sitting and cut it off the tree.

He picked up the branch and threw it over his shoulder, with Hop-o'-my-thumb holding tightly on. The boy walked through the forest, until they reached an apple orchard. A stone wall was around the orchard. The boy climbed over the wall, and then climbed up a tree. Hop-o'-my-thumb jumped on an apple and sat on it. The stem of the apple broke, and they fell to the ground. Hop-o'-my-thumb lay on the ground until it was dark; then he fell asleep.

A man came along and picked up the apple. He thought Hop-o'-my-thumb was a few leaves. Hop-o'-my-thumb awoke and asked the man to let him go, but the man would not. He put him into his pocket, in which there was some hard bread, cheese, a knife, a plug of tobacco, and a string.

As the man was walking along the road, he stopped and picked up something. It was a gold bracelet. He dropped it into his pocket. It fell on Hop-o'-my-thumb's head.

The man walked on until he came to an inn. He entered the inn. There were some people sitting around the room. He took the bracelet out of his pocket, and showed it to them. They asked him where he got it. He said a lady gave it to him. Hop-o'-my-thumb heard him say this.

"You thief, you stole it!" cried Hop-o'-my-thumb.

"Who says I stole it? It is a lie; I did not steal it."

"You did steal it; you know you did!" said Hop-o'-my-thumb again.

The man forgot Hop-o'-my-thumb was in his pocket. He did not know who was talking. He went out of the inn for fear some person would arrest him for a thief.

He was walking along the road. He put his hand into his pocket, and felt Hop-o'-my-thumb there, then he knew that it was Hop-o'-my-thumb that had spoken in the inn. He was very angry with him and took him out of his pocket and put him on the road. Hop-o'-my-thumb was very glad. He started for home. He was walking on the road. He heard two dogs talking about him. He heard one dog say to the other: "You have heard of that little boy named Hop-o'-my-thumb." The other dog said: "Yes, I have heard of him." "Well, he is lost, and his father has offered a reward for him. I am going to see what the reward will be, and if it is a big sum of money, I will try to find him."

Hop-o'-my-thumb jumped on the dog's back. The dog started, and trotted along until he came to Hop-o'-my-thumb's home. Hop-o'-my-thumb jumped off the dog's back and ran into the house.

His parents were delighted to see him, and when he told them

of his adventures, they patted him on his back and laughed very much.

Hop-o'-my-thumb had six brothers younger than himself, but they were all great, big fellows. It took a great deal of food for seven boys.

The woodcutter was very poor, and one winter the family had hardly enough to eat. One evening the mother went to the pantry for bread, but there were just a few roots in the pantry. She gave them to the boys for supper. The father and mother were troubled. They were afraid their children would starve, as they could get no more roots.

The children were all in bed and the father and mother were sitting downstairs talking about them. Hop-o'-my-thumb could not sleep, and he heard his parents talking. He went downstairs cautiously and he peeped in at the door. His father and mother were sitting before the fire with their backs to the door. He went under his mother's chair, and listened to them talking. He heard his father say, he would take them to the woods and lose them, and may be some kind person might find them, and give them something to eat, and keep them.

When his parents went to bed, Hop-o'-my-thumb crept out of the house. He walked through meadows and fields, until he came to a stream of clear water. Here he filled his pockets with little white pebbles. Then he returned home and went back to bed. His parents did not hear him and they did not know he had been out.

Early the next morning, the woodcutter and his wife arose, and wakened the boys. Their parents told them they were going to take them to the woods with them. So they started with their seven sons about seven o'clock. The woodcutter walked first, the mother walked next, the biggest boy behind her, and so on, until the smallest was last. Hop-o'-my-thumb took the little white pebbles out of his pocket, and as they walked along he dropped them on the road. When they had walked a long way from home, the woodcutter and his wife sat down to rest. The boys played hide and seek. While they were playing, their parents left them,

and ran away as quickly as they could. After a while, the boys missed them and searched for them behind the trees and bushes, and called loudly to them.

It was getting dark and the younger boys began to cry, and the older boys said: "Let us go home." Hop-o'-my-thumb said: "All right, who knows the way home?" None of them knew the way. They were much afraid they would have to stay in the woods all night, but Hop-o'-my-thumb said: "I know the way. If you follow, I will take you home." His brothers followed him cheerfully.

It was a nice moonlight night and Hop-o'-my-thumb could see the little white pebbles along the road. He followed the pebbles very easily. It was very late when they got home. When they rapped at the door, their parents were in bed. Their father got up, and opened the door. He was astonished to see his seven sons. They went into the house and went to bed. They were very tired, for they had walked about twelve miles.

The next morning the woodcutter called his children early, and gave them each a crust of bread. Hop-o'-my-thumb did not eat his, and put it into his pocket. The father took them to the forest again and lost them. Hop-o'-my-thumb had dropped crumbs of bread along the road. They tried to find their way home, but could not. The birds had picked up the crumbs. The boys were very much alarmed. Hop-o'-my-thumb climbed up a tree, and looked to see if a house were near. Far away he saw a light in a window. He and his brothers went to this house. It was a beautiful castle. Hop-o'-my-thumb blew a trumpet at the gate. A giantess came to the gate and asked them what they wanted. They told her they were lost in the woods and would like to have some supper and a night's lodging. The giantess said: "I would like to give you supper and a bed to sleep on, but my husband is a giant, and if he should see you, he would eat you all up." But Hop-o'-my-thumb coaxed her to let them stay. The giantess thought a little while, then she said: "You may come in and have some supper."

They were eating supper, when they heard the giant coming.

They all ran and hid under the bed. The giant came into the room. He said: "I smell children." He searched around the room. He looked under the bed and saw the children. He caught them by their feet and pulled them out. He got his big knife and sharpened it. The boys begged him not to kill them. The giantess said: "Fatten them first, and then eat them." The giant said: "All right; let them go to bed now."

While his brothers were sleeping, Hop-o'-my-thumb looked around to see what was in the room. He saw a bed near theirs. The giant's seven sons were sleeping in it. Each of the giant's sons had a gold crown on his head. Hop-o'-my-thumb took the crowns off their heads, and put them on his brothers' heads and one on his own. Then he got into bed, and pretended he was asleep.

By-and-by the giant became impatient. He wanted to have a taste of the children. He went upstairs in the dark and he went to the bed in which Hop-o'-my-thumb and his brothers were sleeping. He felt their heads and felt the crowns on them. Then he went to the other bed, and killed his seven sons. He went downstairs again.

Hop-o'-my-thumb wakened his brothers, and told them to follow him. They crept downstairs, and crawled through a broken window. When they were all out of the house, they took to their heels and never stopped running until the giant's castle was out of sight. Then they stopped a few minutes to rest. They looked around and saw the giant coming with great strides. He had on a pair of seven league boots.

There was a cave near them. They ran and hid in the cave, until the giant should pass, but the giant was tired and lay down beside the cave to rest. He went sound asleep and snored very loud. It sounded like thunder. The boys skipped out easily, and ran in different directions. Hop-o'-my-thumb did not follow the other boys. He crawled in the grass to the giant's feet, and pulled off the seven league boots and put them on his own feet. Now, these seven league boots grew large or small, to fit the person who wanted to wear them. So, when Hop-o'-my-thumb stole them

from the giant, they fitted him. He put them on, and went straight to the giant's house and stole all his money. Then he went home, and gave the money to his parents and brothers.

When the giant awoke and found his boots had been taken, he was quite angry. He jumped up and started for his castle, which was many miles away. He tried to walk fast but could not,

THEY SAW THE GIANT COMING WITH GREAT STRIDES

for the stones hurt his feet. He had to climb over many rocks. It was a hot day and he felt tired and warm. He lay down to rest on a high rock that projected over the sea and fell asleep. He dreamed Hop-o'-my-thumb was standing beside him. He jumped up and tried to catch him, but he stumbled, and fell over the rock into the sea. A sea monster was lying under the rock. It caught the giant, tore him to pieces, and ate him up.

The giant's wife was much grieved when she found her seven

sons had been killed. She waited for the giant for many days, but as he did not come home, she moved to another country.

When the woodcutter and his family heard that the giant was dead and his wife in another country, they felt safe. They had all the giant's money, and were very rich and happy now. Hop-o'-my-thumb never grew tall. He was always a little, wee fellow, but he was very clever, and became quite famous. He was very useful to the king, who was very fond of him and showed him much honor.

LABAKAN.

Many years ago, there was a journeyman tailor, who lived in Alexandria. His name was Labakan. He was an industrious and clever workman, but he had a very bad habit of boasting and telling untruths. He got to telling so many stories and lies, that nobody believed what he said. He often got into trouble on account of his lies, but nothing could cure him of his fault. He delighted to tell his friends that he was a prince in disguise. He said he was really something more than a poor tailor. When his companions went out for a holiday, he remained at home. Then he put on a fine robe which he had in his room. He walked up and down his room very proudly, as if he were a real prince. Sometimes he went out into the street in his elegant robe, and when he met his companions, he bowed to them, and looked very proud.

There was a foreign prince staying for a while at Alexandria. He sent a splendid dress to Labakan's master to be repaired. The dress was given to Labakan to sew, because he was the neatest workman. When Labakan had finished the dress, he laid it aside. He waited until the other workmen were all gone, then he put on the dress. It fitted him perfectly, and he felt very grand. He desired to tell a friend that the dress was a present to him from a prince. He went in the costly robe to his friend's house. When he reached his friend's door, he changed his mind. He did not enter, but returned to his own house. He put all the money he

had in his pockets, and left the town secretly, in his new dress. So, from a boaster and a liar, he had become a thief.

The next day he travelled in his nice clothes. Everybody noticed him because he had on such a fine dress. He passed through a number of villages, and the children crowded around him, and cried: "A prince! a prince! a foreign prince!"

This pleased Labakan very much, and he determined to buy a horse. He thought it was not suitable for a prince to walk on foot. So he bought an old mare. She was a little lame; but she suited him very well, because he was afraid to ride a wild horse.

The third day he was riding up the side of a hill. A young knight on a splendid black steed overtook him. Labakan greeted the knight very politely, and they agreed to travel together. They talked, and began to like one another very much.

Now, whenever Labakan met a stranger, he always told a long invented story about himself. So he told his new friend, the knight, that he was the son of a king. He also told the knight that his brothers were great princes and lived in fine palaces. The knight supposed that Labakan was telling the truth, so he told his own history. The knight's story was very interesting, and it was true.

The knight related that he had been brought up as the nephew of the Sheik of Alexandria. But the Sheik had died a few months ago. When the Sheik was about to die, he told the knight that he was not his nephew, but that he was the son of the king of Abyssinia. He had been brought up under a false name, because a treacherous friend desired to kill him while he was a child. The knight also told Labakan that he had a dagger which the Sheik gave him. He said he was to present the dagger to his father's officers on his birthday. He was to meet the officers near a familiar monument, forty miles from Alexandria. When he met the officers, he was to give them the dagger, and say: "Here is the prince whom ye seek." If the officers said: "Thrice welcome to Abyssinia," he was to follow them to his father. He also said that his name was Omar, and that he never remembered having seen his parents. He said his birthday would be in two days,

and that he expected to reach the monument the next day. Prince Omar did not know that Labakan was deceitful and told many lies. If he had known what an unworthy fellow Labakan was, he would not have told his secret to him.

Labakan pondered much over the story he had heard. He thought a great deal about it, and he wondered how he could get possession of the dagger which was to prove the prince.

They did not reach an inn that night, so they had to take lodging in an old ruined hut by the road-side. Both retired to rest, but Labakan did not go to sleep. He had formed a plan in his mind. At midnight he arose, and stealthily entered the prince's bed-room. He perceived the dagger under Omar's pillow. He drew it cautiously away, and hid it under his own garment. Then he hurried out, and saddled the prince's horse. He mounted the horse, and rode rapidly away. He left the old lame mare for Omar.

Now, as Labakan rode along on the prince's nice horse, he felt uneasy, because he knew he was doing wrong. But he loved to appear great and wear fine clothes; so he was not sorry, and rode on. The next morning, as day dawned, he saw a company of riders coming into the valley. They were richly dressed, and their horses were very beautiful. It was the king of Abyssinia coming to meet his son. Labakan was very much excited. He dismounted and led his steed by the bridle, and ascended the little hill on which the monument stood. A circle of old men were there, and among them was a tall, grand-looking person. This person, who wore a very costly dress, was the king.

The tailor approached, and bowed low to the king. He presented the dagger, and said to the king: "This is the prince whom ye seek."

"Thou art thrice welcome," replied the king. Then he embraced his supposed son, and shed tears of joy over him. Labakan was very proud, indeed. He was very much excited too, because his deception had succeeded so well. But his delight and happiness did not last long.

In the morning, when Prince Omar awoke, he missed his

dagger. He sprang up, and looked for Labakan. He went out to the stable, and found only Labakan's old mare there. Now he knew that Labakan had deceived and robbed him. He was very angry. He saddled the mare and hastened after Labakan, but he could not overtake him.

While Labakan was talking to the king, he looked around, and beheld a horseman coming over the plain. The horse appeared to be much fatigued, and stumbled frequently; yet the rider urged it on. Labakan looked closer, and saw that the horseman was Omar, on his lame mare.

In a short time the rider reached the foot of the hill. He sprang to the ground, and hurried up the hill. He cried with a loud voice: "Father, a traitor has deceived you. I am the true Omar. Believe him not; he is a liar." The old king looked much surprised at the stranger. Labakan was not at all confused. He smiled, and said to the king: "It is a crazy tailor from Alexandria. His name is Labakan, but he has taken my name. I beg you to forgive him."

When Omar heard Labakan speak this way, he turned furiously toward him. He looked so fierce that the soldiers stood between him and Labakan.

The old king would not listen to Omar. He thought he was a pretender, and that Labakan was really his son. The king and Labakan rode in a fine chariot; but Omar was bound with chains, and placed upon a camel. He followed behind, guarded by the soldiers. Thus they proceeded to the king's capital.

As they travelled along, crowds of people came out of the cities and villages to see the young prince. The people wished to honor the prince. They made arches trimmed with flowers and green leaves for him to pass under. They strewed flowers in his way, and rejoiced much. All this made Labakan feel very proud and happy as he rode beside the king. But Omar, who was the real prince, was disgraced, being bound with chains. If any one asked who he was, Omar heard this reply: "A mad tailor from Alexandria."

At length they entered the capital, and reached the royal

palace. The queen sat on her throne. Many wise men and beautiful maidens stood around her. She was waiting for her son, whom she was very anxious to see.

The king was very proud, and led his son toward the queen. The queen was not hasty. She examined Labakan's face very closely; then she drew back, disappointed. She did not like his looks, and he did not resemble the little child which she remembered well. She hid her face in her robe, and wept, saying: "He is not my son." At that moment the door was flung open, and a young man rushed in. It was Omar, who had escaped from his keepers. He threw himself on the floor at the feet of the queen, and cried out: "I will die here. I cannot bear the disgrace of confinement in chains. I am not a madman, but I am the true prince." The king looked angrily upon Omar. He said to the keepers, who followed him: "Take him away, instantly." Then the king said to the queen: "It is a mad tailor from Alexandria." The king pointed to Labakan, and said again: "Here stands our son who brought me the dagger." Omar said that Labakan had stolen the dagger; but the keepers pulled Omar out of the room, and led him to prison.

The king frowned, and looked cross. He wanted the queen to own Labakan as her son, but she refused. She said: "I cannot own him; he is so much unlike my son."

The king was unable to overcome the queen's obstinacy. He dismissed the ladies and gentlemen. Then he led Labakan to his own rooms to talk. He hoped that the queen would be willing to own Labakan in a few days.

The queen returned to her own room also. She was much disappointed, and wept very much. Her maids were very kind, and tried to console her; but she could not help weeping. At length an old woman who had been the nurse of the prince, said she had a plan by which to discover the real prince. She told her plan to the queen. She said: "Give them both some work to do. Tell them each to make a fine robe, and he who is the best workman will prove himself to be a tailor, and thus show himself a deceiver."

The queen gladly agreed to this plan. But she said to the old woman: "I have very much offended the king, and I am afraid he will not let me try the plan." The old woman replied: "You must first ask him to forgive you; then he will agree to all that you wish." So the queen went to the king. She talked to him very pleasantly. Now, the king loved his wife very dearly, and was glad to see her so well pleased. He was sorry that he had been so cross to her in the morning. The queen coaxed the king to let both Labakan and Omar make a robe after the newest fashion. She said that the one who made the best robe, would please a mother most. The king consented, but he did not much like the plan. He hastened to Labakan, and begged him to try to please his mother, and make a robe after the newest fashion.

The tailor was delighted. He knew he could make a very fine robe, and felt sure he could please the queen very much. He asked for velvet, and silk, and cloth, and thread. He determined to make a more splendid dress than he had ever made before. He was very confident of beating Omar. They were given two days to finish the robes. On the third day, the king and queen, and many ladies and gentlemen, assembled to examine and judge the two robes.

Labakan walked forward proudly, and laid down his beautiful robe at the foot of the throne. Omar was led into the room by his keepers. He seemed to be dreaming. He carried in his hands his scissors, thread, and stuffs sent to him. He deposited them at the foot of the throne. He turned to the queen, and said: "I have been taught to ride a wild horse, and to throw my lance; I can shoot an apple from a tree, but I never learned to sew and make clothes."

When the queen heard this, she cried out: "You are my true son." She came down from the throne, and embraced Omar. Then she turned to the king, and explained to him the trick she had used to discover the real tailor. The king, the gentlemen, and the ladies looked at Labakan's beautiful and finely-made robe. Then they all knew that he was the real tailor.

The king was very angry because he had been deceived. He

told Labakan that he should be hanged. Labakan was very much frightened, and he trembled very much. He was ashamed to look at the gentlemen and ladies. Omar was brave and generous, and he begged the king to forgive Labakan. Then, for Omar's sake, the king pardoned Labakan. He told him to go back to Alexandria, and never to show himself again.

Labakan crept away to the stable and saddled his own lame mare. Then he mounted and rode away. He felt very mean and humble. He was sorry that he had taken the robe, and he was sorry that he had left his kind master in Alexandria. He determined to go back and beg his old master to forgive him. He thought if his master would forgive him, he would never tell a lie again.

Labakan travelled back to Alexandria, and went to the house of his old master very humbly. But as soon as his master saw him, he called his helpers, and they all fell upon him in a rage. They beat him with their yard-sticks, and told him to bring money for the robe which he had stolen. Then they put him out of the house.

Now Labakan was in great trouble. He tried to get work, but nobody seemed to want him. At last he found employment in a large clothing shop. Here he worked faithfully and honestly. He saved his money, and soon had enough money to pay for the stolen dress. He took the money to his old master, and begged to be forgiven. His master forgave him, and gave him employment. Now he worked very steadily, and gained much praise. He never spoke an untruth again, and felt happy as a plain tailor.

EVANGELINE.

Many years ago, the English people and the French people hated each other, and they were always at war. During one of the wars the English soldiers went in many ships and sailed to Acadia. Acadia was the old name of Nova Scotia. It is north-east of the United States. Acadia belonged to the French people, and a large

number of people had sailed from France to Acadia. They were very industrious, and they cultivated the ground and built villages. They lived very happily till this war began between the French and the English.

When the English ships reached Acadia, the soldiers landed. The French went out to fight them, but the English gained many battles, and conquered the whole country. Before this war, the people had been governed by the French king, who lived in France. After the war, the Acadians were governed by the English king, who lived in England. The English king was a very wicked and cruel man. He said the Acadians were all rebels. He was a tyrant. He sent many large ships to Acadia. There were many villages in Acadia. One village was named Grand-Pre. The English soldiers burned this village, and they commanded the inhabitants to get into the ships. Then they carried them prisoners far away from Acadia.

Evangeline's Childhood.

Far away, in Acadia, the French people had built a little village, and they called it Grand-Pre. It was a quiet little village. It was built in a valley near the sea. The farmers put their cattle and sheep on the vast meadows east of the village. The meadows were lower than the sea. The farmers had built high banks of earth between the sea and the meadows to keep the sea from covering the meadows. When the grass in the meadows got dry, the men opened the gates in the banks. The water came in through the gates and covered the meadows. Then the men shut the gates. The water soon sank into the earth, leaving the meadows all green again. Fields of flax and corn and large orchards of fine fruit were south and west of Grand-Pre. Grand old forests and high mountains were north of this little French village.

The houses were built as the peasants in France built their houses long ago. The houses were all very strong. The roofs were covered with straw, and were called thatched roofs. The houses had many dormer-windows, and gables which shaded the

door-steps from the sun. On the pleasant summer afternoons, the matrons and maidens put on their little white caps and aprons. They took their sewing to the shaded door-steps, and they talked and laughed together while they sewed.

When the sun was setting, the good priest walked slowly down the village street. The little children loved the priest. They always stopped playing and ran to kiss his hand. The matrons and maidens all loved him, and rose from the steps to welcome him. When the twilight came, the farmers stopped working in the fields and walked home. The women went into the houses and prepared the evening meal. The Acadian farmers lived in peace and contentment. They were generous and hospitable. Strangers were always welcome in their homes. They did not lock their doors or windows at night. For they were not afraid that robbers would get into their houses and steal their money.

Benedict Bellefontaine was the richest farmer of Grand-Pre. He was an old man. His hair was white as snow, but he was strong and stately. His cheeks were brown like the oak leaves. He was a merry old man, and often sang in the evening. His wife had died many years before. Evangeline was his only child. She was very beautiful. She had bright, black eyes and dark hair.

Benedict's house was built on the side of a hill. It was built in the centre of a large yard. A foot-path led from the house, through the orchard, to the meadows. The well was near the house. Its moss-covered bucket hung full of clear, cool water. The horses and cows drank out of the trough near the well. Benedict's house was large and old-fashioned. Tall trees grew by the house, and pretty vines climbed around the trees, and covered the bark with the green leaves. A long porch was in front of the house with many seats on it. Evangeline and her father sat on the porch during the long summer evenings. Evangeline took care of her father's house. She was a good and gentle girl, and all her friends loved her. She had many gentleman friends who went to see her. Each gentleman hoped to win her love; but only one was welcome. His name was Gabriel. He was the son of Basil La-

jeunesse. Basil was the village blacksmith. Gabriel's father and Evangeline's father were very good friends.

Gabriel and Evangeline grew up together like brother and sister. They went to school together, and studied out of the same book. When the lessons were done, they ran away to Basil's shop. They stood at the door, and watched him make many horseshoes, and saw him put them on the horses. They played together in winter. She wrapped her cloak around her and sat on the sled. Gabriel pulled the sled to and from school. They coasted down the hills together. In the summer, they played together in the barn. Each one took a little basket and looked for eggs. Each would try to find the most eggs. Sometimes they climbed to the top of the hay-mow, and jumped down on the fragrant hay on the floor. They went to the woods to look for the first spring flowers, and they gathered bunches to carry home with them. In the autumn, Gabriel climbed to the top of the trees and shook the ripe nuts down on the ground. Evangeline gathered the nuts and put them in a basket. All this was long ago, when they were children. Gabriel grew to be a man. He still loved Evangeline very much. She grew to be a good woman. She loved only her father and Gabriel.

Acadia When the French Lived There.

When the summer was over and the autumn came again, the nights grew longer and colder. The birds flew from the cold northern countries to the warm and sunny south. The grain was gathered into the barns. The wind shook the leaves off the trees in the forest. The weather grew cool, and the people could not sit on the door-steps. They took their sewing into their houses and sat by the open fire. The Indian hunters said the winter would be long and cold, because the fur was thick on the foxes, and because the bees had gathered much honey.

One night, Benedict Bellefontaine was sitting in his sitting-room near the large fire-place. He sat in his easy rocking chair and watched the shadows dancing on the wall. He sang some old

songs that his grandfather sang in France many years before. Evangeline sat near him. She was spinning some flax into thread. They heard footsteps on the porch. They listened. Benedict knew by the step that Basil was coming, and Evangeline knew that Gabriel was with Basil. The door opened and the two men walked into the room.

"You are both welcome," said Benedict; "Come, Basil, take a pipe and some tobacco from the shelf. Pull your chair to the fireside, and we will talk while we smoke." Basil sat down, and said: "You are always cheerful, while others are sad. Listen to the news I bring to you. The English have gained the victory in many battles, and they have captured our country. Now, we must be governed by the English king. Many English ships are anchored in the sea near our meadows. They have staid there for four days. We do not know what the English soldiers will do. They have commanded all the men in the village of Grand-Pre to meet in the church to-morrow. The English king has sent a message to the Acadians, and this message will be read in the church to-morrow." Basil stopped talking and leaned back in his chair to smoke. Benedict said: "Perhaps the grain did not grow well in England. Perhaps these ships have come for grain. We have plenty of grain in our barns, and can give some to the English people. These soldiers may be our friends." "The people in the village do not think the English soldiers are our friends," answered Basil. "They have taken our weapons from us. Many men of the village have fled to the forest. They are afraid of the English."

The farmer smiled and said: "We may be safer in our peaceful homes than our fathers were in the forts. We must fear no evil. We will pray that no sorrows fall on us to-night." The farmer and the blacksmith turned and looked at their two children. Gabriel and Evangeline were standing near the window. They were talking. Benedict said to Basil: "Let us forget the English soldiers to-night. Our two children are very happy; we must rejoice with them. They will be married in a few days. The merry lads of the village have built a house and barn for Gabriel

and Evangeline. The house is furnished nicely. The barn is filled with hay. All things are ready for the bride and groom." As soon as Benedict stopped talking, the door opened and Rene Leblanc entered the room.

Rene Leblanc Tells a Story.

Rene Leblanc was the notary public. He was an old man, and his shoulders were bent. His long yellow hair hung over his shoulders. He wore large glasses, and looked very wise. When he was a young man, he fought in the wars. He was taken prisoner and was kept captive in an old fort during four long years. He was very fond of children, and all the people loved him. The children climbed upon his knee, and listened to his great watch ticking. Sometimes he told them stories of the fairies who lived in the forest. He told them about the good goblin who gave water to the horses during the night; and of the angels who watched by the bed-side of good children. But the children liked the story of Christmas eve the best of all. On that night, when the children are snug in bed, all the animals awake at twelve o'clock. The cattle and horses talk in the stables, and they tell many secrets to each other. Many flowers open on Christmas eve. The little white fairies jump out of the flowers and fly to the little children's bed-rooms and whisper in their ears. Then the children dream pleasant dreams.

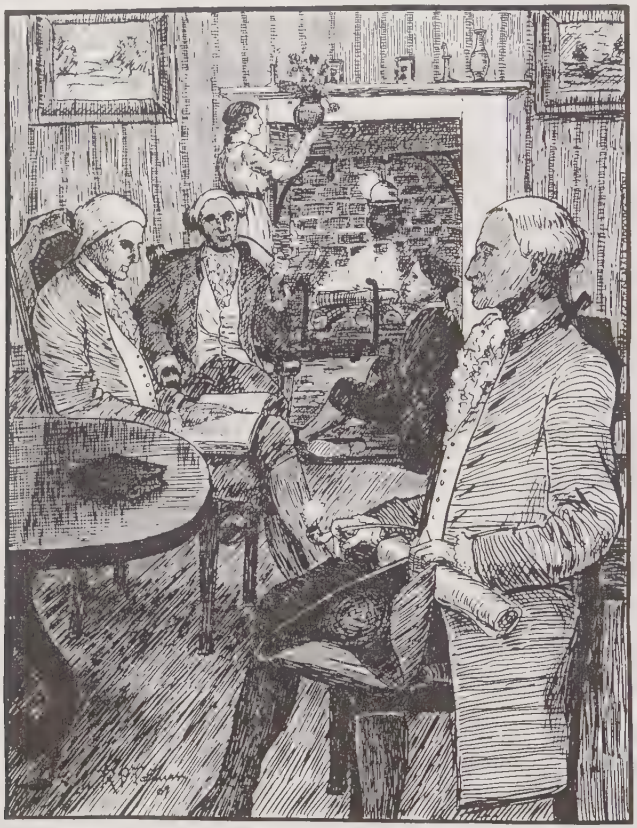
When Rene Leblanc entered the room, Basil knocked the ashes from his pipe. He shook hands with Rene, and exclaimed: "You have heard the talk in the village. Can you tell us any news about the English ships?" "I have heard gossip about the ships," answered Rene, "but I do not know why they have come here."

The blacksmith had a hasty temper, and he said that the English were very strong and might be unjust. The notary public answered: "Man is often unjust, but God is always just. Justice will always triumph. I remember a story that consoled me when I was a captive in the old fort. I will tell the story to you." This

was the old man's favorite tale. He loved to repeat it when his neighbors complained of any injustice. He wanted to show his neighbors that God cared for the people.

This is the story Rene told:

"The people who lived in an ancient city had a beautiful public park. The people made a large statue of Justice and put



"I HAVE HEARD THE GOSSIP ABOUT THE SHIPS," ANSWERED RENE, "BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHY THEY COME HERE"

it in the centre of the park. The statue was in the form of a woman. She was blind-folded. The people put a pair of scales in the statue's left hand, and a sword in its right hand. This was a sign that justice ruled over the laws of the land, and over the hearts and homes of the people. The birds built their nests in the scales, for they were not afraid of the sword that flashed in the sunshine above them.

"In a few years, the rulers of the people became very wicked. Might took the place of right. The wicked rulers corrupted the just laws, and they oppressed the weak people. The rulers were not good judges, because they were unjust. One day, a young lady lost a beautiful necklace of fine pearls. She was a nobleman's daughter and lived in a large palace. An orphan maid lived in the palace. The lady thought the maid had stolen the necklace. The nobleman took the maid to the judges. She said she did not steal the necklace, and did not know where it was. No one saw the maid take the necklace, but the people all thought she was the thief. The wicked judges condemned her to die. They took her to the park and hanged her at the foot of the statue of Justice. When she was dead, a terrific storm arose. The clouds darkened the sky. The peals of thunder crashed over the heads of the people, and the judges were afraid. A flash of lightning struck the bronze statue. The scales were hurled from the left hand of the statue, and they fell down on the pavement. A magpie had built a nest in one of the scales. When the scales fell the nest rolled out. The judges examined the nest, and they saw the pearl necklace woven in the side of the nest. The mischievous magpie had taken the necklace."

When Rene Leblanc had finished his story, Evangeline lit the lamp. She put it on the table. The notary public drew his papers and ink out of his pocket. He wrote the date, and the ages of Gabriel and Evangeline. He also wrote down the flocks of sheep, the number of cattle, and the money that Benedict would give to the bride. They all signed the paper. The notary public blessed the bride and the groom and went home. The blacksmith and his son bade good-bye to Benedict and Evangeline and went home.

The Acadians Taken Prisoner in the Church.

The next morning, the sun shone brightly over the village of Grand-Pre. The many waves of the sea sparkled in the sunshine and danced around the English ships. The people of the village arose early, and soon the day's work was done. This was a holi-

day, and all the Acadian peasants dressed themselves in their gayest clothes and went to the village. The English king's message was to be read in the church. The men and women all wanted to hear it. The streets were full of people, and they talked about the English soldiers and the ships in the bay. Every house in Grand-Pre was like an inn. The country peasants were welcome in every house.

Benedict Bellefontaine invited many strangers to his farm. Evangeline waited on her father's guests, and she made them all welcome. The feast of her betrothal was spread in the orchard under the trees. The good priest and the notary sat on the porch near Benedict and Basil. Old Michael, the fiddler, sat under the trees. The shadows of the leaves fell on his snow-white hair, and danced on the grass at his feet. He played on his fiddle for the people to dance. The young folks and the old folks danced together. They walked up and down on the path to the meadows.

The morning hours soon passed away, and then the great bell in the church steeple was rung. This was the signal that all the men were to go into the church. The women waited in the graveyard. They stood near the graves and hung wreaths of autumn leaves on the white stones. A guard of soldiers marched from the ships and entered the church with the men. Then the great doors were closed and locked. The men in the church were very quiet. The English commander walked to the front of the church and said: "The English king has commanded you to come here to-day to hear his message. He has always been kind to you. You began a war with him. Now, he intends to punish you. You will not like the message, but you must obey. This is his message: 'You must give all your farms, your houses, your cattle, and your sheep to the English king. You are prisoners. In a few days you must get into the ships and go far away to another land.' "

The Acadian peasants were silent for an instant. Then a wail of sorrow and anger rose in the church. The men all rushed to the door, but it was fastened and they could not get out. Basil stood up among the Acadians. His face was red with anger. He

shouted: "Down with the English tyrants! We will not be governed by them! Death to these foreign soldiers who take our homes, and drive us away from our loved country!" A soldier struck him and pulled him down on the floor.

The good priest entered the church. He saw the men fighting with the soldiers. He slowly raised his hands. All the people were quiet. The priest looked very sad, and he said: "This is the house of God. You must not fight here. You should not hate the soldiers, for it is wrong. I am an old man now. I have lived with you during forty years, and I have always taught you to love one another and to forgive your enemies. Have you forgotten all my lessons? Look at the picture of Jesus and let us pray to God. We will ask him for help and strength."

The women who waited in the churchyard heard the men shouting, and they were frightened. They thought that the message was not a good and kind one. They went back to their houses. When the sun was setting, Evangeline stood at the door watching for her father. She had set the table ready for supper, and she had placed her father's chair near the table. But the soldiers kept the men in the church. Evangeline was sorrowful, and looked down the village street. She saw the women at their doors, looking for their husbands. She was sorry for them, and forgot her own troubles. She walked into the village and tried to cheer the mournful hearts of the women.

Then she walked to the church, and waited for her father and her lover to come out; but they did not come. She walked slowly back to her own home. She put ashes on the fire to keep it during the night, and went to bed. She awoke at midnight and heard the rain falling on the trees near her window. She saw the lightning flash in the sky, and she heard peals of thunder. Then she remembered that God lived in Heaven, and she asked Him to help her father and her lover, and keep them from harm. She remembered the tale that Rene Leblanc had told about the justice of God. She knew that God would take care of the men in the church, and she went to sleep again.

The soldiers kept the Acadian peasants locked in the church for four days. The soldiers told the women to pack a few clothes and prepare to go away in the ships.

On the fifth morning the women all went to the sea-shore. Their little children ran at their sides. They often stopped on the road and looked back at their old homes. They were very sorry, and cried bitterly because they had to leave their own country and go far away.

In the afternoon the women went to the churchyard. The soldiers opened the great doors of the church, and the men came out. They walked with their wives and daughters to the sea-shore. They were very sad, and sang a hymn. Evangeline saw Gabriel. His face was pale. She went to him, and said: "Do not be so sad. We love each other, and nothing will harm us." She stopped talking suddenly, for she saw her father. He was greatly changed in his looks. He looked much older than he did when he went into the church. He walked slowly and the old cheerful look was gone from his face. Evangeline ran to him. She clasped her arms around his neck and kissed him. She told him that she would never leave him while he lived.

The soldiers were careless. They carried the peasants' clothes to the ship and threw them down on the deck in a heap. The soldiers did not care how they took the people to the ships. They were in a hurry. Sometimes the mothers were carried to one ship, and the fathers were carried to another ship. Sometimes the wicked soldiers left the little children on the shore, and took their parents away. They carried Basil and Gabriel to one of the ships, but they left Evangeline and her father on the shore. Evangeline thought she would never see her lover again, but she could not leave her old father alone.

When the sun went down and the dark night came, the soldiers stopped carrying the people to the ships. Some of the Acadians had to stay by the sea all night. They gathered sticks, and built fires to keep themselves warm. The faithful priest walked from fire to fire, and he blessed the people and tried to cheer them. He went to the place where Evangeline and her

father sat. Benedict did not move or speak. The priest knew that Benedict was dying, and he was sorry for Evangeline. He laid his hand on her head, and told her that her father was dying. Evangeline cried bitterly. The priest sat on the ground near her, and tried to comfort her.

Suddenly a bright light arose from the village. The light grew brighter and broader. All the air grew bright, and the people were frightened. They looked towards the village and saw columns of smoke, and flashes of fire. They knew that the village of Grand-Pre was burning. They knew that the hard-hearted and cruel soldiers had set their houses and barns on fire. The people that were in the ships, and the people that were on the shore watched the burning village. They were terrified. They said: "We shall never see our homes in the village of Grand-Pre again." The bright light awoke all the cocks in the barns. The cocks thought it was morning and began to crow. They awoke all the horses and the cows. The animals were all terrified. They jumped over the fences in the village and rushed to the meadows.

The priest and the maiden gazed at the burning village. They saw their old homes burning to the ground. They saw the frightened horses and cows in the meadows. They turned to speak to Benedict, but he had fallen on the ground. He was dead. The priest lifted Benedict's head on his knee and closed his eyes. Evangeline knelt at her father's side and wept. Then she fell on the ground in a swoon. She was insensible all night. When she woke from the swoon, she saw many people around her. All her friends were sorry for her. They talked to her and tried to comfort her. She heard the good priest say to the people: "We will bury Benedict Bellefontaine here near the sea. If we ever come to our country again, we will bury his bones in the sacred churchyard." The people dug a grave in the sand and put Benedict's body in it. The priest prayed over the grave. Then he led the weeping Evangeline away.

When morning came, the soldiers carried the remainder of the people to the ships. The ships sailed far away from the land. They left the dead on the shore, and the village in ruins.

Evangeline's Wanderings.

Many years have passed since the soldiers burned Grand-Pre. Many years have passed since the vessels sailed away from the harbor. The Acadians were taken far away from their beautiful homes. The vessels sailed south. Sometimes they stopped and put some people on the shore. They stopped many times along the coast and finally all the people were landed. They were scattered as the wind scatters the flakes of snow. They were friendless, and homeless, and hopeless. They wandered from city to city. They wandered from the cold lakes in the north to the warm southern lands. They wandered from the ocean to the Mississippi river. They looked for homes and friends. Many of the people died. Their sad history is written on the tombstones in many church-yards.

For a long time, a maiden was seen with the Acadians. She was young and fair, and patient, but she was not happy. She always wandered looking for some one.

This was Evangeline. She was searching for her lover, Gabriel. Sometimes she stayed in the towns a little while; but she soon wandered on again. Sometimes she sat by a nameless grave. She thought maybe Gabriel was in it, and she wished to die. Sometimes the people told her that they had seen Gabriel. Some said that he was with Basil, the blacksmith, and that they were far away on the prairies and were famous hunters. Others said that he was in the lowlands of Louisiana. Many of the Acadians scolded her and said: "Why do you wait for Gabriel? Many other young men have tender and true hearts. Baptiste Leblanc, the notary's son, loves you. Give your hand to him." But the fair Evangeline answered: "I cannot! I love Gabriel. I cannot marry Baptiste." The good priest was her friend. He tried to cheer her; and he travelled with her always.

Gabriel Passes Evangeline in the Night.

It was the month of May. A clumsy boat, that was rowed by Acadian boatmen, floated down the Ohio river, past the mouth of the Wabash, into the broad and swift Mississippi.

Men, women, and children were in the boat. Evangeline and the priest went with them. During the daytime, they rowed down the river. They made fires on the banks of the river at night. There they cooked their food and slept. They floated past large gardens and beautiful houses. Tall trees grew on the banks of the river and moss hung from the branches. Many small islands were in the river.

One moonlight night, the boatmen rowed to the shore of a pretty island. The people landed and prepared their evening meal. They were very tired and made beds under the branches of the trees, and went to sleep. While they were asleep, a small boat went by the other side of the island. It was rowed by strong men who were hunters. They were going northward to shoot the buffalo. A young man sat at the helm of the boat. His face looked thoughtful and careworn. His dark hair hung over his forehead. He was quite sad. This was Gabriel. He had waited a long time for Evangeline to come to him. He grew weary and unhappy. He longed to go to the vast plains west of the Mississippi river, and forget his sorrow. The hunters did not see the boat belonging to the Acadians as they went by, and the Acadians did not hear the hunters.

Evangeline dreamed that she saw Gabriel near her. She awoke and said to the priest: "Something says in my heart that Gabriel is near me. Is it a dream, or did an angel whisper the truth to me, while I slept?" The good old man answered: "I hope Gabriel is near you. We will soon arrive at the towns of St. Maur and St. Martin. I hope Gabriel is there for you. I hope many of the Acadians are there. We will stay there always. The country is very beautiful, and many of our old friends live in those towns."

A house, belonging to a herdsman, stood on the bank of the river. A large garden was around the house. The house was built of timber. The roof was large and low. A broad porch extended around the house. The posts were covered with roses, and the humming-birds and bees gathered honey from the flowers. A column of smoke arose from the chimney of the house. A path

went from the back of the house, through a grove of oak trees, to the prairies. Trees covered with grape vines grew in the garden.

The herdsman sat upon his horse near the bank of the river. He was dressed like a Spaniard, and wore a large hat to shield him from the sun. His face was broad and brown. He gazed about him at the herds of cattle that were quietly grazing in the meadows. A large horn hung at his side. He blew the horn and the cattle all rushed away from the meadows near the banks to the prairies. As the herdsman turned back to the house, he saw the priest and the maiden walking towards him. He sprang down from his horse in amazement, and ran to meet them. When they saw his face, they knew that the herdsman was Basil, the blacksmith. They were amazed. Basil welcomed his guests and led them to the garden. They sat down among the roses and talked. Evangeline looked for Gabriel, but she did not see him. She covered her face and cried. Basil said: "Do not cry. Gabriel went away to-day. He grew restless and left me alone with my cattle and horses. He is not far on his way. To-morrow we will follow him and bring him back to you."

Old Michael, the fiddler, came to greet the priest and Evangeline. He had lived a long time with Basil. He often played on his fiddle for the people, and everybody knew and loved the old man with the white hair.

Basil invited his friends into the house where supper was waiting. When supper was ended, Basil said to his guests: "You have been homeless and friendless. You are welcome to my home. This land is better than Acadia. The winters are short. There are no stones in the ground to provoke the wrath of the farmer, and the plow runs smoothly through the soil. Blossoms are always on the orange trees and the grass grows very fast. Vast herds of cattle run wild on the prairies. You can stay on the land always. You can soon build houses from the forests, and you can plant grain and vegetables. When you are happy here, the king of England cannot drive you away, and burn your homes, and steal your treasures." Basil stopped talking and let his fist fall on the table. He pounded the table so hard that his friends

started. Basil laughed, and led the way from the room. He had invited many friends to his house that night. Old Michael played on his fiddle. They hastened to join in the dance. Their wanderings were forgotten while they danced and listened to the music.

The priest and the herdsman did not join in the dance. They stood at the end of the hall and conversed together. They talked of the past, of the present, and of the future.

Evangeline did not dance, but she watched the others dancing. She grew sad. She remembered the feast of her betrothal, when she lived in Grand-Pre. She thought she heard the sound of the sea dashing against the banks of earth at the meadows of Grand-Pre.

No one saw her, so she left the hall and went out into the garden. The night was beautiful. The moon was rising behind the forest. Beams of light fell through the trees on the river. Many fragrant flowers grew around her, and gave pleasant thoughts to her. She walked through the garden-gate, beneath the shade of the oak trees, to the edge of the vast prairies. She saw many fire-flies on the prairie. She looked up at the sky and saw the twinkling stars. She thought of Gabriel. She said aloud: "Oh! Gabriel! My beloved! You have often walked on this path when you went to the prairies! You have often seen these forests, and you have often sat down to rest beneath these oak trees! When shall I see you? When shall we be together again?" A whippoorwill sang on the branch of the tree above her. Everything was still; but the oak leaves seemed to whisper, "Patience," and the meadows seemed to answer her and say, "To-morrow."

Basil and Evangeline often Hear of Gabriel, but They Never Overtake Him.

The next day the sun shone brightly. The flowers were fresh and fragrant. The dew sparkled on the grass and on the plants like diamonds. The good priest was too old to travel now, so he staid in Basil's home. He stood at the door of the house and said to Basil and Evangeline: "Farewell! bring Gabriel home with

you.'' They walked down to the river. The boat and the boatmen were waiting for them. They got into the boat and started on their journey after Gabriel. They hoped to find him very soon, but they travelled many days and many miles before they heard of him. Once, when they had left the boat and were very tired, they stopped at a little inn. The landlord told them that Gabriel had left the village the day before. He had taken horses and men with him to guide him over the prairies.

A desert land lies far in the west, where the lofty mountains are always covered with snow. Deep ravines are between the mountains, where the wagons are driven. The beautiful prairies are beyond these mountains. The prairies are covered with tall grass and gay wild flowers. Herds of buffaloes, elks, wolves, and wild horses wander over the prairies. Scattered tribes of Indians also wander over the plains. Here and there the smoke arose from the camps of the savages.

Gabriel had travelled far into the wild prairies. Basil and the maiden, with the guides, followed him. Each day they thought they would overtake him by night. Sometimes they thought they saw the smoke of his camp-fires in the distance, but when they reached the place, they did not find him. They grew very tired and sad.

One night they had pitched their tents and were sitting around the fire. An Indian woman came into Evangeline's tent. She looked tired. Evangeline pitied her and made her welcome. She said that her husband had been murdered by some Indians. She was going home to her people to live. She told many Indian tales to Evangeline. She said that long ago, a beautiful Indian girl loved the snow king. One morning he went away from her and seemed to dissolve in the sunshine. The maid followed him far into the forest, but could never find him. So she pined away and died of grief. Evangeline wondered if she was like the Indian girl and followed only a shadow.

Early the next morning, they started on their journey again. The Indian woman went with them. She said to Basil and Evangeline: "A little Indian village is on the western side of the moun-

tains. The Black Robe chief of the village is a wise and good man. He teaches the people about Jesus. He makes their hearts glad. He may tell you where to find Gabriel." Evangeline was glad to hear this, and she determined to go to the Indian village and see the chief. They soon reached the village and the Black Robe chief welcomed them and took them into his wigwam. There were no chairs in the wigwam, so they sat on mats and skins and ate the food which the chief gave them. He listened attentively to the story of their travels in search of Gabriel. He was sorry for them, and said: "Gabriel was here, but he went away six days ago. He has gone far to the north to hunt buffaloes and wild birds. He will return to the village in the autumn when the chase is over." Evangeline answered him: "Let me remain with you until the autumn comes. I am tired wandering so long." Basil and the chief agreed to this plan. On the next day Basil and his guides left the village and started for their home, leaving Evangeline to the care of the good Black Robe chief.

Days and weeks and months slowly followed each other. When Evangeline went to the Indian village, the fields of maize were only beginning to grow. Now they were taller than she, and waved their heads above her. The lads and maids of the village husked the maize when it was ripe. The maids laughed when they found a red ear of maize, for it was a sign that a lover would seek them. The chief found a curious plant on the plains and showed it to Evangeline. He told her that its leaves were always turned toward the north like the magnet in a mariner's compass. It is called the compass flower. God planted it in the pathless prairies to direct the traveller and to keep him from losing his way.

Autumn and winter both came and went, but Gabriel did not return to the village. At length, a rumor reached her that Gabriel had his lodge by the banks of the Saginaw River in the Michigan forests. Evangeline bade farewell to the Black Robe chief and went from the village with some guides who were going to Michigan. After many days, she reached the forests and found the hunter's lodge, but it was deserted!

Evangeline wandered about for many years. Sometimes she went to the battlefield and camps of the soldiers. Sometimes she went to small towns to look for her lover, or to the populous cities. She was so quiet that she seemed like a phantom. When she began her long search for Gabriel, she was young and fair; but now she was old and her beauty had faded. She grew pale and thin, and the wrinkles came on her forehead. Her hair was streaked with gray. But she did not grow cross; she was always kind and gentle.

Evangeline at Last Finds Gabriel.

At last she reached the beautiful city of Philadelphia. There the air is clear and pleasant. Many of the streets are named after the trees of the forest. Old Rene Leblanc, the notary public, had died there. She did not seem a stranger there. She liked to hear the Quakers talk to each other, for it made her think about her home in Acadia. She lived many years in Philadelphia. She became a Sister of Mercy, and watched at the bedside of the sick. All the sick people loved the meek woman, and seemed to grow better when she went to them. Every night the watchman saw her at some window caring for some poor person. In the morning, when the farmers came into the city with flowers and fruit to sell, they saw her going home.

An old almshouse stood near the city. Many poor people went there when they were sick, and the good Sisters of Mercy cared for them. One Sunday morning, Evangeline entered the door of the almshouse. She gathered some flowers which grew near the door and took them with her to give to the dying persons. As she walked to the bedside of a dying man, she stopped and looked at him. It was Gabriel. He had grown old and thin, and his hair was gray. He was unconscious, but he heard Evangeline scream and knew her voice. He thought he was back in Acadia and walking under the trees there. He opened his eyes and saw Evangeline kneeling by his bedside. He tried to say her name, but he could not speak. She knew what he wanted to say by watching the motion of his lips. He tried to rise, so she laid his

head on her bosom and kissed his lips. His eyes shone brightly for a little while, but they soon paled and he was dead.

Evangeline died soon after, and the lovers were buried side by side in a little churchyard in Philadelphia.

THE STORY OF DAVID.

David was a shepherd boy. He took care of his father's sheep on the hills of Judea. He was a good boy and loved God. He was a very sweet singer. He sang sweet hymns of praise to God on his harp. God loved David because he was good. David's brothers were soldiers in King Saul's army. One day David's father sent him to the camp to see his brothers.

When he reached the camp, he heard the great giant, Goliath, daring Saul's soldiers to come out and fight with him. The soldiers were afraid of Goliath because he was so powerful. David asked King Saul to allow him to fight with the giant. At first King Saul would not allow him. He thought David was weak, and that the giant would soon kill him. But David begged so hard that he finally consented.

David took five smooth stones out of the brook. He put them in a bag and went out to meet the giant. When Goliath saw David coming he began to laugh. He thought he could soon kill David, because he was so small. David took a stone and put it in his sling. He threw it at the giant. It struck him on the forehead and he fell to the ground. David ran to the giant, and drew his sword and cut off his head. The soldiers were very much surprised and pleased. They had been afraid of the giant, and were glad that he was now dead.

King Saul had a son named Jonathan. He admired David because David had killed the giant. He said he wanted David to be his friend. He gave his sword, his bow, and his rich robe to David. Jonathan and David loved each other always. Jonathan was good and loved God.

King Saul became very sick. He was jealous of David because the people admired and loved him. He was sad and unhappy because he was not good. He was very fond of music. His servants asked David to play and sing to him. David consented and brought his harp and played for him. Saul hated David and wanted to kill him. David knew this because Jonathan had told him.

One day King Saul threw his javelin at David to kill him. David avoided it and ran out of the room. He fled from King Saul and hid in a cave in the mountains. He was afraid of King Saul. His mother, father, and brothers followed him. They stayed with him in the cave. A great many men who did not like King Saul, came to David. At last, David had four hundred soldiers with him. He did not wish to fight against King Saul. He only wanted to keep King Saul from killing him. He and his soldiers lived quietly in the cave. God took care of David and did not let the wicked King hurt him. David was good and forgave King Saul. At last, in a great battle, Saul and his good son Jonathan were killed. David was very sorry. He sang a sweet song about them. The people asked David to be King of Israel. David consented and was crowned in Hebron.

King David was a brave soldier. He won a great many battles and conquered many countries. He was very great. After a while David became idle. He did not go to fight with his enemies, but stayed at home to amuse himself. He sent his nephew, Joab, to fight for him. He did a very wicked thing. One of his soldiers had a very nice wife. David envied this soldier. He had the soldier killed because he wanted to marry his wife.

God was very angry with David. He sent a wise man to rebuke him. David was very sorry for his sin. He asked God to forgive him. God said he would forgive him, but he must be punished very severely to show the people that God hates every thing evil.

David had a son named Absalom. Absalom was a very wicked man. He had very fine hair and he was very beautiful. He was very vain. He tried to drive his father from Israel and

become King himself. David's soldiers fought against Absalom in the woods. Absalom rode on a fine horse. He rode under the branches of an oak tree. One of the branches caught his long hair and held him. The horse ran on. One of David's soldiers rode up. Absalom was hanging to the tree by his hair. The soldier killed him with his javelin.

David loved Absalom, and was very sorry when he was killed. David became a very good man after this. He taught his people many good things, and all loved him very much.

THE WOODCUTTER'S CHILD.

ONCE upon a time there lived a poor woodcutter and his wife. Their house was near a large wood. The woodcutter had one little daughter, who was three years old. They were very poor. One day the woodcutter went into the woods to cut down some trees. He was very sad and much troubled because there was nothing in the house to eat.

After he had chopped for a long time, he looked up and saw a tall, beautiful woman standing before him. She had a crown of stars on her head. She told him she was a Guardian Angel, and would take care of his little girl if he would give the child to her. The woodcutter consented and brought the little girl and gave her to the angel.

The angel carried her away to the land of Happiness. She was very happy there. She had plenty to eat and drink. Her clothes were gold. Her playmates were beautiful children. When she was fourteen years old, the Guardian Angel gave her thirteen keys. They were the keys of the doors of the land of Happiness. The angel told her that she might open twelve doors, but that she must not open the thirteenth door or she would surely be punished.

The maiden promised to be obedient. The Guardian Angel then went away on a long journey. Soon the maiden thought she would like to see what was in these rooms. She opened twelve doors. In each room, she saw an angel surrounded by a bright

light. But she was not satisfied. She wanted to see what was in the last room.

One day her playmates were all away. She thought she would go to this room and see what was in it. She took the key and went to the room. She unlocked the door and opened it. She saw three angels, surrounded by a bright light, sitting on the throne. She was much astonished. She put her finger into the light and it became gold. She was now very much frightened, and shut the door quickly and ran away. She washed her finger, but the gold would not come off.

Soon the Guardian Angel came back. She asked the maiden for the keys. She gave them to the angel. The Guardian Angel thought the maiden had disobeyed her. She asked her if she had opened the thirteenth door. The maiden said she had not. The angel saw the gold on her finger, and she knew she was telling a lie. She told the maiden that she could not stay in the land of Happiness, because she had tried to deceive her.

Soon the maiden fell asleep. When she awoke she was in a wilderness. She was surrounded by many thick bushes and could not get out. She found she could not even speak. There was a hollow tree near her. This was her house. She had no food but roots and wild berries. She made her clothes from the leaves of trees. She had very long hair which covered her. She remained in the wilderness a long time and was very poor and miserable.

One day the King of the country was hunting in the forest. A bird flew into the bushes near the maiden. The King wanted this bird. He got off his horse and cut a path through the bushes with his sword. He did not know the maiden was there. When he saw her, he was much astonished. She was sitting under a tree with her golden hair hanging around her. He asked her how she came there, but she was dumb and could not answer him. The King said, "Will you go with me to my castle?" She nodded her head. The King put her on his horse and rode home with her. He gave her beautiful clothing, and everything she wanted. Still she could not speak. But the King loved her, because she was so beautiful, and he soon married her.

The Queen had a little son. One night the Guardian Angel came to her. She told the Queen to confess that she had told her a lie. She said she would then be able to speak; but if she was still obstinate, she would take away her baby.

The Queen was very stubborn and would not confess her sin. She said, "No, I did not open the door." The Guardian Angel took the child out of her arms and disappeared with him.

The next morning the child could not be found. The people began to think the Queen had killed him. The King loved his wife very much and did not believe this.

About a year afterwards, another son was born. The Guardian Angel appeared and asked the Queen if she would now confess her sin. The Queen again said, "'No, I did not open the door." The angel then took the second child and disappeared. The next day when the baby was missing, the people were very indignant. They thought the Queen had killed it, but still the King would not believe it.

The next year a beautiful little girl was born. The Guardian Angel came again to the Queen. She told the Queen to follow her. She took her by the hand and led her to the kingdom of Happiness. She showed the Queen her two children. They were playing merrily there, and the Queen was delighted to see her children. The Guardian Angel then said, "If you confess your sin I will restore your children to you." But the Queen again said, "No, I did not open the door." In an instant the third child was taken from her.

The next day, when the people heard the little girl-baby was missing too, they were exceedingly angry with the Queen. The King began to think the people were right in condemning her. The people demanded that the Queen be arrested. The King could do nothing, and he was obliged to consent. The Queen was arrested and tried. She could not speak to defend herself. She was condemned to be burned to death upon a funeral pile. The people collected the wood, and bound her to the stake. They then set fire to the wood.

Then the Queen was very sorry because she had not confessed

her sin. She called to the Guardian Angel and said, "Good angel, I confess!"

Instantly it began to rain. The rain put out the fire, and she was saved. The angel then appeared with the Queen's three children. She gave them back to the Queen. The Queen could now speak. The angel told the Queen that she was forgiven. She promised her great happiness and then disappeared.

THE STORY OF CAPTAIN SMITH AND POCAHONTAS.

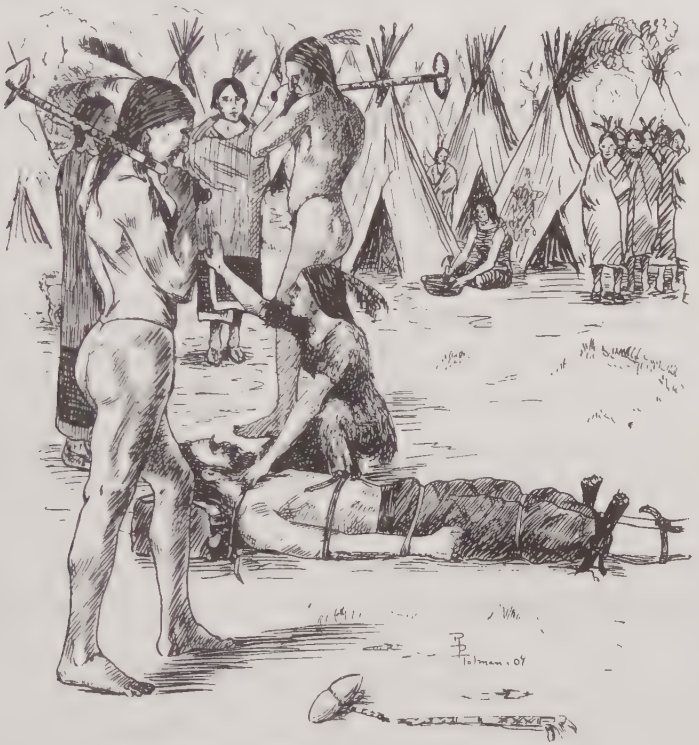
Many years ago there were a great many Indians in the United States. These Indians were exceedingly savage and cruel. The white people were very much afraid of them. The Indians were an ignorant people. They did not know it is wrong to be treacherous and cruel. No one had ever taught them.

They often set fire to people's houses and barns. They would hide behind trees and kill persons who were working in the field. They would carry off men, women, and children from their homes. Sometimes they would tie them to trees and amuse themselves by shooting at them with bows and arrows. Often they would bind them to a stake and burn them to death. There were few people in this country then. They were weak, and could not defend themselves well against the Indians.

There was a man named Captain Smith who lived in Jamestown. One day Captain Smith and a number of other men went up the James river in a boat. After they had rowed a long distance, Captain Smith and a few of these men left the boat. They went into the woods to examine the country. Some Indians were hiding behind the trees near the river. When Smith left, they sprang out and seized the men who staid in the boat and killed them. They then followed Captain Smith and his companions into the woods. They soon overtook them. They killed Smith's companions. Smith was very cunning. He knew the Indians were a very curious people. He took out a pocket compass and showed

it to them. He told them about the compass. The Indians did not quite understand him. They thought he was a magician, and they were afraid to kill him. They decided to take him to their king, Powhatan.

The Indians carried Smith to the residence of their king. They told Powhatan about the wonderful compass. The Indians were a little afraid of Smith.



SHE THREW HER ARMS AROUND HIS NECK

Powhatan had a very beautiful daughter, called Pocahontas. She was twelve years old. She wore a dress made from raccoon skin. She had eagle feathers in her hair. She had never been taught to read and write. She became very fond of Captain Smith.

Captain Smith was much pleased with Pocahontas. He tried to talk to her. He made her many dolls, whistles, and windmills. She was much delighted with these. Each day she became more fond of Smith.

At last the king and his warriors said Smith should die. He was brought out, and his head was laid upon a stone. Two Indians, with clubs, stood ready to kill him. Pocahontas rushed to Smith. She threw her arms around his neck, and begged her father to let him live.

Powhatan was very fond of his daughter, and always liked to please her. He unbound Smith and let him go. He sent some Indians to see Smith safely back to Jamestown. Captain Smith reached Jamestown in safety. He told the people about his wonderful escape. They admired Pocahontas very much, and were very glad Smith was safe and again with them in Jamestown.

THUMBLING.

THERE was once a woman who wished for a very little child, but she did not know where to get one, so she went to an old witch and asked her where she could get one. The witch gave her a seed and told her to plant it in a flower-pot. The woman took the seed, and went home and planted it; and immediately there grew up a handsome flower. The woman kissed the flower, and as she kissed it the flower opened and a little girl was sitting in the middle of it. She was just as big as half your thumb, so the woman called her Thumbling.

Thumbling had a walnut shell for a cradle, blue violets for a mattress, and a rose leaf for a covering. She slept in the cradle at night, but played on the table during the day. There was a plate of water with a wreath of flowers around it on the table, and a tulip-leaf on the water. Thumbling used the tulip-leaf for a boat, and two white horse hairs for oars. She could sit on the leaf and row around the plate, and she could also sing very sweetly.

One night as she lay sleeping in her little cradle, an old toad crept through the window. The toad was very big and ugly. It hopped upon the table where Thumbling lay sleeping. The toad looked at her and said: "She would make a handsome wife for my son." She picked up the walnut-shell in which Thumbling lay

sleeping, and hopped through the window and down into the garden. A brook ran beside the garden. The toad and her son lived beside the brook. He was as ugly as his mother. When he saw Thumbling, he said: "Croak! croak!" His mother said: "Don't speak so loud, or she will awake, and she might run away from us." Some pretty water-lilies grew in the middle of the brook. The old toad carried Thumbling and put her on one of the water-lily leaves, so she could not run away. Then she went back to the garden, to help her son build a house for Thumbling and himself to live in.

When Thumbling awoke in the morning and saw where she was, she cried very bitterly; for there was water all around the leaf, and she was afraid. The old toad wanted to fix the house and make it look very nice before Thumbling should see it, so she and her son swam out to get the cradle. The old toad bowed to Thumbling and said: "Here is my son; he will be your husband, and you will live together in a house in the garden." The son said: "Croak! croak!"

They took the bed and swam away with it. Thumbling sat on the green leaf and wept, for she did not want to live with the nasty toad. The little fishes swimming in the water saw the old toad, and heard what she said. They stuck their heads out of the water and looked at Thumbling. They saw she was very pretty and they felt sorry she had to live with the ugly toad. So they gnawed away the stalk, and the leaf floated down the brook far away, where the toad could not get Thumbling. She floated past many cities, and all the birds and everybody who saw her said: "What a pretty little girl."

A little white butterfly always fluttered around her, and at last alighted on the leaf beside her. She was very glad. She took her sash and tied one end of it around the butterfly, and fastened the other end to the leaf, so it could not fly away.

A big May-bug saw her. He flew to her, and picked her up and carried her to a tree. Thumbling was much frightened when he flew up into the tree with her, and she was sorry for the poor

butterfly whom she had fastened to the leaf, for he could not free himself, and so he would starve to death. The May-bug sat with her on a big leaf, and gave her some pretty flowers to eat. In a little while the other May-bugs, who lived in the tree, came to visit, and all the lady May-bugs said: "How ugly she is!" But that was not true, for she was very pretty. They were jealous of her, so they made the May-bug who carried her off believe she was ugly, and he flew down from the tree with her, and put her on a daisy. Then they flew off and left her alone in the woods. She made herself a bed out of grass, and put it under a large leaf so the rain could not fall on her. She gathered the honey out of the flowers and ate it. She drank the dew from the leaves every morning. She liked it very well in the summer and autumn, but when winter came, all the flowers and leaves died, and she was very cold. Her clothes were torn and she was delicate. It began to snow, and she tried to wrap herself in a dry leaf, but the leaf tore in the middle. She was nearly frozen, and she shivered with cold.

One day she went to a wheat-field. There was no wheat in it now. There was nothing but stubbles. A little field-mouse lived in a hole under one of these stubbles. The mouse had a warm house, and a room full of wheat. Poor Thumbling went to the mouse's house and stood at the door and begged for a little wheat, for she was very hungry. The field-mouse asked her to come in and eat dinner with him.

Thumbling went into the house and was much pleased with it. Everything was clean and neat. The field-mouse said to Thumbling: "If you like, you may stay all winter with me, but you must tell me pretty stories, because I am very fond of them."

Now a mole lived near the field-mouse. He came once a week to see the mouse. He was very rich and had a fine house. The field-mouse told Thumbling to tell the prettiest stories she knew, for he was very learned. The mole came, and he asked Thumbling to sing. She sang:

"Lady-bug, lady-bug, fly away home,
Your house is on fire, your children are alone."

The mole fell in love with her, because she sang so sweetly. He dug a tunnel between his house and the field-mouse's, and Thumbling and the field-mouse walked through the tunnel. The mole walked before them, and carried a light. A bird was lying on the floor. The mole made a hole in the ceiling above the bird so the light could come in, and they could see it. The mole did not like birds. He kicked the bird aside with his crooked legs. Thumbling was very sorry, for she was fond of birds. The mole accompanied the ladies home. Thumbling could not sleep that night, so she got up and took a spread and covered the dead bird with it. Now the bird was not dead, but it was only stiff with cold, so when he got warm he was alive, but very weak. The bird was a swallow. Thumbling nursed the swallow all winter, but the field-mouse and the mole did not know it. When spring came and it was nice and warm, the swallow flew out through the opening in the ceiling. Thumbling was very sad, for she loved the swallow.

Now the mole wanted Thumbling to marry him, and the field-mouse told her she must make an outfit. The mole hired four spiders to weave linen for her day and night. Thumbling did not want to marry him. She did not like the ugly mole. The field-mouse told her she would be married in four weeks. Thumbling cried, and said she would not marry him. The field-mouse said: "Don't be stubborn or I will bite you with my sharp teeth."

The mole came to marry Thumbling; she was to live with him in a hole in the ground, and never come out into the warm sunshine. Poor little Thumbling was very sorrowful. She went out to say good-bye to the sun. As she was standing in the cornfield looking at the sun, the swallow which she had fed all winter flew past her, and saw her crying. He asked her why she was crying. She told him she had to marry the ugly mole, and live deep under the earth, and never see the sun again. The swallow said: "I am going to a warm country; you may come with me." She got on the swallow's back and he flew far away over the mountains with her. He carried her to a beautiful country. She was delighted and clapped her hands. The swallow carried her and put her on a broad leaf which was fastened to a pretty white flower,

and there sat a little man in the middle of one of the flowers. Thumbling was surprised. He looked as if he were made of glass, and he had a gold crown on his head. He was just the same size as Thumbling. He was a king. The king was frightened when he saw the swallow, but he was glad when he saw Thumbling. She was the prettiest lady he had ever seen. He took off his gold crown and put it on Thumbling's head, and asked her to be his wife. She said, "Yes." And out of every flower came a little lady or gentleman, and each brought Thumbling a present; but the best gift was a pair of wings which had belonged to a great white fly. These wings were fastened to Thumbling's back, and she could fly from flower to flower. The king thought Thumbling an ugly name, so he called her Maia. The swallow was sorry that Thumbling was married, and he flew away again from the warm countries. But before he went, he sang a farewell song to little Thumbling.

THE BRAVE LITTLE TAILOR.

THERE was once a brave little Tailor. He sat cross-legged on a table and made coats, and vests, and pants. One day he was sitting on his table sewing a coat. He was in a very good humor. While he sewed, he heard a woman coming up the street. She was crying: "Good preserves for sale! Good preserves for sale!" The little Tailor called the woman, and she came to him. He asked her to show him her preserves. She did so. The Tailor took up a jar of preserves and held it up to the light and smelled it. He put it down and said: "These are nice preserves. I will take half a pound." The old woman was disappointed. She thought he would take several pounds. She gave him half a pound and went away.

When the woman was gone, the Tailor said: "Now, I shall have a good meal." He went to his cupboard and took out a loaf of bread. He cut a big slice of bread. He spread the preserves on the bread. It looked very good, and the Tailor said: "It makes

me hungry to look at it. I want to eat it, but I will finish this coat first." So he put the bread and preserves down near him and worked at his coat. He often looked at the bread, and it made him feel hungry. He was in a great hurry to get the coat done. He made very long stitches and did not sew well, but he sewed very fast.

Now there were a great many flies in the room. They smelled the preserves. They flew down to the preserves to get a taste. The Tailor drove them away with his hand several times. But they would not stay away. A great many more came back to the bread. At last the Tailor got very angry and seized a strip of cloth and struck the bread and preserves with it. He raised the piece of cloth. He counted seven dead flies on it. The Tailor was surprised and delighted. He thought it was wonderful to kill seven flies at one blow. He was very proud, and thought himself a hero. He said: "Everybody must know what a brave man I am." So he cut out a belt and hemmed it. He worked on the belt in large letters: "SEVEN AT ONE BLOW." He finished the belt and danced with joy.

The Tailor bound the belt around his body. He felt very proud and great. He thought his shop was too small for him. He wished everybody to know what a brave man he was. He prepared to travel out in the world. Before he left his house, he looked about for something to take with him. He found a piece of old cheese in the cupboard. He put the cheese in his pocket. Then he saw a bird held fast in a bush. He went and caught the bird. He put it in his pocket also. Then he began his journey. His road led up a steep hill. When he reached the top of the hill, he saw a great Giant sitting there. The Giant was quietly looking about the country. The Tailor was not afraid of the Giant. He walked up to him, and said: "Good day, sir; I am going to travel through the world. Do you wish to go with me?" The Giant looked at the Tailor. He saw he was a very little man. He turned up his nose at him, and said: "You vagabond. You lazy and worthless fellow." The little Tailor replied: "Maybe I am lazy and worthless. Here, you can see what I am." He unbut-

toned his coat and showed his belt to the Giant. The Giant read, "Seven at one blow." He thought they were seven men whom the Tailor had slain. Then the Giant took up a stone and squeezed it in his hand. Water dropped out of the stone. The Giant said to the Tailor: "Do that if you are strong enough." The Tailor said: "That is nothing. That is play to me." He put his hand in his pocket and took out the cheese. He squeezed the cheese very hard. The whey ran out of the cheese. The Tailor said: "Now, that is more than you can do." The Giant said nothing. He took up another stone. He threw it very high into the air. The Tailor could not see it. The Giant said to the Tailor: "Do that." The Tailor smiled, and said: "You do well, but I can beat that." So he took the bird out of his pocket and threw it up into the air. The bird flew straight up and never came back. The Giant was astonished that the little Tailor could throw so well. Then the Giant said: "Now, let us see what you can carry." He went to a large tree which lay upon the ground. He told the Tailor to help him carry the tree out of the forest. The Tailor said he would do so with pleasure. He told the Giant to take the trunk upon his shoulder. He said he would carry the branches which were heaviest. The Giant took the trunk of the tree upon his shoulders, so he could not look around. The Tailor placed himself upon a branch of a tree behind the Giant. The Giant had to carry the whole tree and the Tailor too. The Tailor was very merry and sang a song. The Giant staggered with his heavy load a long way. At last he became very tired. He told the Tailor that he would let the tree fall off his shoulder. The Tailor jumped down quickly and lifted up a few small branches. He did not want the Giant to know that he had been riding on the tree. He laughed at the Giant, and said: "What a big man you are, and cannot carry this tree yourself." They then threw down the tree and left it on the ground.

The Tailor and the Giant travelled further together. They at last came to a cherry tree. There were many ripe cherries on the top of the tree. The tall Giant reached up and seized the top of the tree. He bent it down and gave it to the Tailor. He told

the Tailor to eat the cherries. The Tailor was too light and weak to hold the tree down. When the Giant let go, the tree flew up into the air. The Tailor was thrown over the tree, but he came down all right on the other side. The Giant looked at the Tailor and smiled. He said: "Are you too weak to hold that little tree down?" The Tailor replied: "No. I was strong enough. I killed seven at one blow, and I could hold that tree down easily." He told the Giant that he jumped over the tree. He said the hunters were shooting in the bushes near the tree, and he did not want to get hurt. He told the Giant to jump over the tree. The Giant tried to jump over the tree, but he fell among the branches. The Tailor stood with his arms folded and laughed at the Giant. After this the Giant said: "You are a nice little fellow. Come to our house with me and stay a day or two with us." The Tailor consented and followed him. They entered a cave. Two other Giants were sitting by a fire in the cave. Each Giant had a roast sheep in his hands and was eating it. They gave the Tailor some mutton to eat. In a short time they showed the Tailor a bed where he might lie down and sleep. The bed was much too large for him, so he crept out and lay down in the corner. At midnight the Giants thought the Tailor was sound asleep. One Giant took a very large iron bar, and struck the bed with it. He thought he had killed the Tailor. In the morning the Giants got up and left the cave. They forgot the Tailor and went into the forest. In a little while the Tailor met them in the forest. The Giants thought the Tailor was dead. They were very much surprised and frightened to see him. They thought the Tailor would kill them, so they ran away as fast as they could.

The Tailor travelled on. He always followed his nose. He walked a long distance, until he came into the yard of a King's palace. He was very tired, so he lay down on the grass and fell asleep. While he lay there, the people came to him and looked at him on all sides. They read upon his belt, "Seven at one blow." Then the people said: "This is some great warrior; some great hero." They went and told the King. The King sent one of his friends to ask the Tailor to join his army. The King's friend

went to the Tailor. He was afraid to wake the Tailor, so he waited until the Tailor should awaken. Then he told him what the King wanted. The Tailor at once consented. He was treated with great honor. A fine house was given him to live in. The King's friends became very jealous of the Tailor. They wished he were a thousand miles away. They were afraid of him, because they thought he could kill seven men at one blow. They were very angry, and determined to leave the King. They went to the King and told him that they were going away. The King was very sorry to lose all his friends for only one. He thought he would send the Tailor away, but he was afraid of him. He did not want to make the Tailor mad. He thought for a long time how he could get rid of the Tailor without offending him. At last he sent for the Tailor. He told the Tailor that he wanted him to do something. The King said: "Two Giants live in a great forest in my kingdom. These Giants burn houses, and murder the people, and rob them. No one dares to go near the Giants. If you kill both these Giants, I will give you my daughter for a wife. I will give you half of my kingdom also. A hundred soldiers may go with you." The King hoped the Tailor would go to meet the Giants, for he thought the great Giants would surely kill the little Tailor.

The Tailor thought that a princess for a wife and half a kingdom were very nice. He said to the King: "I will kill these bad Giants for you. A hundred soldiers are not necessary to help me. I have killed seven at one blow, and two are nothing." The Tailor started to the forest where the Giants lived. One hundred soldiers followed him. As soon as they reached the edge of the forest, the Tailor said to the soldiers: "Stay here, for I would like to meet these Giants alone." He entered the forest, and looked all round for the Giants. At last he saw the Giants sleeping under a tree. They snored very loudly. The Tailor was very courageous. He filled both of his pockets with stones. Then he climbed up a tree and crept out on a branch over the Giants. He dropped a stone on the breast of one of the Giants. The Giant awoke and said the other Giant had struck him. The other Giant

denied it. Then they lay down again. In a little while the Tailor dropped another stone on the other Giant. The Giant was angry and thought the first Giant had struck him. In a short time they both fell asleep again. Then the Tailor threw his largest stone on the breast of the first Giant. The Giant was now furious. He sprang up like a crazy man, and struck the other Giant. The Giants fought fiercely. They pulled up trees, and beat one another until they were both dead. The Tailor climbed down the tree. He drew his sword and made a wound in the breast of each Giant. Then he went to the soldiers and told them that he had killed the Giants. The soldiers went into the forest to see the Giants. They thought the Tailor was very brave and strong. The Tailor went and told the King about the Giants. The King was very glad to hear that the Giants were dead. But he was sorry to lose his daughter and the half of his kingdom. But the King was afraid to offend the Tailor, and he gave his daughter to the Tailor for a wife. So the poor Tailor became a King and lived in a fine palace.

THE GIANT HANDS.

Little Willie and his mother lived together. Willie's father was dead. His mother made fancy articles to sell for money to buy food. She was sick and weak and she could not work much. Willie went to the woods every day to get wood.

One day Willie went out to gather wood in the forest. His mother went to the village to sell some fancy articles. When she returned, she was very tired. Willie was sorry for his mother. Willie said he would leave home and work for money to buy provisions, for he did not want his mother to work so hard.

His mother consented and let him go. They sat down and ate their supper. After supper they talked a long time, and then retired. The next morning Willie got up early and ate his breakfast. He embraced his mother, said good-bye, and went away.

While he was walking along the road, a curious cloud ap-

peared before him. Two enormous hands came from the cloud. Willie was frightened, for he did not see anybody. He stood still and gazed at the cloud. A voice from the cloud spoke to Willie. It told him the hands would always help him. Willie thanked the hands. The hands vanished and Willie walked on.

He went a long distance, until finally he came to the edge of a precipice. He looked down the precipice and saw a muddy stream at the bottom. He did not know how to get across the stream. He sat down on the ground and wept bitterly. In a few minutes the giant hands appeared and lifted him across the stream. The hands instantly became like a cloud. Willie was very grateful, and took off his hat and bowed to the hands.

He sat on the grass. He took some bread out of his pocket and ate it. When he had finished eating he got up and looked around. He could not see any house or any person. He gathered some dry leaves and made a bed of them. He lay down on it to sleep. The giant hands appeared just then and spread themselves over him. Willie was not afraid, for he knew the good hands would protect him. He slept soundly.

The next morning he got up and left the forest. He saw a huge castle. An ogress lived in the castle. Willie ran to the castle and tried to raise the knocker. It was very heavy and he could not do it. The giant hands appeared and raised it for him.

The ogress came to the door. She looked cross, and asked him what he wanted. He asked the ogress if she wanted a servant. The ogress said yes, and told him to come in.

Willie went into the castle. The ogress told him to go to the kitchen and cook her dinner. Willie obeyed. He saw much provisions on large tables. He was troubled because he thought he was not able to do so much work, but the giant hands appeared and helped him to prepare the ogress' dinner. Willie and the hands cooked a good dinner for the ogress.

The ogress was very ungrateful, for she was not satisfied with the dinner. She scolded Willie and told him she would eat him. Willie became very angry, and told her she was a greedy and

hateful woman. The ogress was furious. She chased Willie out of the dining room. He ran to the kitchen. She followed him. She threw heads of cabbage and potatoes at him, but he dodged behind a pile of vegetables. The ogress almost caught Willie, but the giant hands appeared. They grasped the ogress round her waist, carried her to the window, and threw her into the sea. The ogress screamed and then sank in the water.

Willie ran out of the house. He came to the sea. The hands followed him. They plunged into the sea. Willie jumped into the hands and they carried him across the sea. At last he reached the shore. He got out of the hands and stood on the shore. He saw a house and walked up to it and rapped at the door. A kind farmer lived in the house. He opened the door and spoke to Willie.

Willie asked him if he wanted a servant, and the man said yes. He told Willie to come in. Willie went into the house and ate his breakfast with the farmer. After breakfast the farmer told Willie to go to the field and cut corn. He went to the field and began to work. In a few moments the giant hands appeared and cut a great deal of the corn very quickly.

In the evening the farmer came to the field. He was surprised to see the great amount of cut corn. The farmer's daughter was with him. She admired Willie. Willie lived with the farmer a long time, and the farmer trusted him.

One day the farmer sent Willie to the mountain for the flocks. A violent storm came up. The rivers and streams were very high, and many sheep and cattle were drowned. Willie kept the farmer's sheep on the side of the mountain until the storm was over. Then he drove the sheep down the mountain. He came to the river, but he could not cross it because it was very high. Willie was troubled. He stood on the bank and looked at the water. In an instant the giant hands appeared and spread themselves over the river, and Willie drove the sheep across the hands.

When the farmer saw Willie coming with the sheep, he was much surprised. He thought the sheep were lost in the river. He ran to meet Willie. He was very glad to see him, and he led him into the house.

The farmer's wife made a good supper for Willie. He ate his supper and went to bed. During the night, a bad man set fire to the farmer's house. The farmer, his wife, and Willie ran from the house. They forgot to waken the farmer's daughter. The stairs were burned and when she awoke, she could not get down. She went to the window and called to her father. Her father and mother heard her, but they could not help her. They were nearly crazy with grief. Willie saw the girl, and he wanted to save her because he loved her very much.

The giant hands appeared and placed themselves against the house under the window. He climbed up to the window on the fingers. He reached the window, took the girl in his arms, and descended safely. He gave the girl to her parents. They were delighted and embraced their daughter many times. The farmer's daughter and Willie became very much attached to each other.

Willie earned much money. He bought a wagon and filled it with provisions, and started home. He had no horses to haul the wagon, so the giant hands drew it.

Willie's mother was standing at the door of their house. She saw Willie and ran to meet him. Willie waved his hat and shouted. Willie and his mother were now very happy.

Willie bought a farm and became very rich. He often visited the farmer. He married the farmer's pretty daughter, and they lived together very happily for many years.

LITTLE BOY-BLUE.

Mr. and Mrs. Blue lived in a small house near a forest. They had one little boy and one little girl. The girl's name was Daisy. Daisy had pretty red cheeks. The little boy's name was Boy-Blue. Boy-Blue grew to be a big boy. Boy-Blue's father had some sheep and cows. He made Boy-Blue sit out in the field and watch the sheep and cows. Boy-Blue had a tin horn. The horn was painted blue, red, and green. The horn hung around his neck

on a red cord. When the cows and sheep ran away, Boy-Blue would blow on the horn very loud. The cows and sheep would then come running back to him. One morning Boy-Blue got out of bed the wrong way. He put his stockings on wrong side out. He was combing his hair, and the comb pulled his hair. He was washing his face, and the soap suds filled his eyes. Boy-Blue was very cross. He went to the breakfast table, and he refused to eat. His mother told him to go to the field. She put some nice cakes into a basket and gave the basket to him. She kissed him on both cheeks. Boy-Blue said he hated sheep, and cows, and lambs. Boy-Blue went to the field, and was very sulky. The cows and sheep acted very badly that day. Boy-Blue chased them and beat them with sticks and threw stones at them. He was very warm and tired, and at last he sat down near a hay-stack and ate the nice cakes.

He was sleepy and lay down on some hay and fell asleep. While he was asleep, the sheep jumped over the fence into a man's meadow, and they trampled the nice grass. And the cows broke the fence and ran into a large corn-field and ate the corn. Mr. Blue was working near the corn-field. He saw the cows, and he did not hear Boy-Blue blow the horn. He thought Boy-Blue was hurt. He called him, but Boy-Blue was asleep and did not hear his father.

Mr. Blue hunted Boy-Blue. Finally he found him lying on the hay asleep. He was very angry. When Boy-Blue awoke, he was ashamed. Then he drove the cows and sheep home.

ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES.

Ali Baba Hides and Learns the Robbers' Secret.

In a town in Persia, there lived two brothers. One was named Cassim, and the other, Ali Baba. Their father was not rich, but he had some property. Before he died, he divided it between his two sons.

Cassim married a lady who was very rich, and he became a rich merchant. He had everything he wanted. Ali Baba married a lady who was very poor, and he lived in a very mean looking old house. He was a woodcutter, and he took his wood to town on his three asses and sold it.

One day, Ali Baba was in the forest chopping wood. He saw at a distance a cloud of dust. At last he saw a number of men on horseback riding toward him. Ali Baba began to think they were robbers. He was afraid of them. He climbed up into a tree to hide himself. The branches of the tree were very thick, and the robbers could not see him, but he could see them. This tree was at the bottom of a very high rock. No one could climb up this rock, because it was very steep and craggy.

The robbers rode up to the tree and dismounted. Ali Baba counted forty robbers. Each man tied his horse to a shrub and hung a bag of corn around the horse's neck. Then each one took his sack from the horse and put it on his back. The sacks were filled with gold and silver. One of the robbers, who was the captain, came under the tree on which Ali Baba was sitting. There was a door in the rock behind the shrubs, which Ali Baba had not seen. He heard the captain say: "OPEN, SESAME." Immediately the door in the rock opened, and the captain sent all of the robbers into the cave. He followed them, and the door closed after him.

Ali Baba did not leave the tree, for he was afraid some of the robbers would come out of the cave and catch him. He staid up in the tree for a long time. At last the door opened again, and the forty robbers came out. When they were all out, the captain said: "SHUT, SESAME," and the door closed again. They all mounted their horses and rode off. Ali Baba watched them until they were out of sight. Then he slid down the tree. He went behind the shrubs and found the door which was concealed by the shrubs. He stood before it and said: "OPEN, SESAME." The door instantly flew wide open.

Ali Baba expected to see a small, dark cave. So he was much surprised when he saw it was very large and light. The light came through a hole in the top of the rock. He saw all sorts of provi-

sions, rich bales of silks, brocade, and valuable carpeting; also, heaps of gold and silver, and money in large leather purses.

Ali Baba went into the cave. As he stepped in, the door shut behind him. He filled a number of bags with gold and silver.

ALI BABA WENT INTO THE CAVE

Then the door opened for him, and he loaded his three asses with these bags. He covered the bags with wood to keep people from seeing them. When he had done this, he stood before the door, and said: "SHUT, SESAME." The door closed, and Ali Baba went back to town with his asses.

ALI BABA SHOWS THE MONEY TO HIS WIFE.

When he reached home, he drove his asses into a small yard. He shut the gates very carefully. Then he threw off the wood which covered the bags. He carried them into the house, and

showed them to his wife. When his wife saw so much money, she thought he had stolen it. She began to reprove him. Ali Baba told her all about the robbers' cave, and how he got the money. His wife was much surprised. She wanted to count the money, but Ali Baba would not let her. He was afraid some one would come in and see her before she was done. He told her he would dig a hole in the ground and bury it. His wife suggested that they borrow a measure and measure the money. Ali Baba did not want her to do it; but she persisted. At last he consented. She ran to her brother-in-law Cassim's house for a measure. He was not at home. Only his wife was there. She asked his wife for a measure. Cassim's wife knew that Ali Baba was very poor. She thought they wanted to measure grain. She wanted to know what kind of grain they had. She went into another room to get the measure. She put a piece of suet inside on the bottom of it. Then she gave it to Ali Baba's wife.

Ali Baba's wife hurried home with the measure, and measured the gold while he was digging a hole. When he had finished, he buried the gold, and she took the measure home. A piece of gold had stuck to the suet on the bottom of the measure, but she did not know it. She returned the measure to her sister-in-law, and thanked her. Then she went back home.

Cassim's wife looked at the bottom of the measure to see what had stuck to the suet on it. She was greatly astonished when she saw a piece of gold there. She kept the gold until her husband came home. She said to him: "Cassim, you think you are rich, but you are wrong. Ali Baba is much richer than you are. He does not count his money; he measures it." Cassim did not understand her at first. She showed him the money and told him all about it. Cassim became very jealous of his brother, because he had so much money.

Ali Baba Confesses to His Brother.

Early the next morning, Cassim went to his brother's house. He said to Ali Baba: "Ali Baba, you pretend you are poor, but you have so much money that you measure it." Ali Baba pre-

tended he did not understand Cassim. Cassim showed him the piece of money and said: "My wife found this on the bottom of the measure which your wife borrowed yesterday."

Ali Baba was alarmed when he found out that Cassim knew about the gold he had taken from the robbers' cave. He knew he need not deny it. He confessed to his brother how he got the gold, and where he had gotten it. He said: "If you will not tell anybody about the gold, I will give you half of it."

Cassim was not satisfied with this. He demanded to know where the cave was, and how to get into it. He said: "If you refuse to tell me, I will tell the police all about you. You will be arrested, and your gold taken from you."

Ali Baba was willing to let his brother know where the cave was. He told Cassim where to find it, and how to get into and out of it. Cassim was now satisfied, and went home.

The next morning, before daylight, he took ten mules and a number of bags with him, and started for the cave. If he found much gold in the cave, he intended to go again and take more mules with him to bring away the gold.

He soon arrived at the rock and tree which Ali Baba had described. He looked for the door, and soon found it. He said: "OPEN, SESAME." The door opened. He entered, and it immediately closed behind him. He looked about the cave. He was astonished when he saw such heaps of gold. He was a very avaricious man, and wanted to take all the gold with him at once. He stood looking at the gold and examining it for a long time. Finally he thought he had better hurry. He picked up a number of sacks of gold and went to the door. He was thinking so much about the gold, that he forgot what to say to open the door. He said: "OPEN, BARLEY." But the door would not open. He could not think of the words: "OPEN, SESAME." He named other kinds of grain, but the door remained closed.

When Cassim found he could not get the door open, he became much alarmed. He was afraid the robbers might come to the cave before he got out. He threw down the sacks of gold he was carrying, and began to walk backward and forward in the cave.

At noon, the robbers returned to the cave. They saw Cassim's ten mules standing in front of the cave, and they were greatly surprised. They drove off the ten mules. The mules went to the forest. The robbers knew that some one must have brought those mules there. Some of them searched for the owner among the rocks outside of the cave. They could see no one. Then they advanced to the door of the cave. The captain said: "OPEN, SESAME," and the door flew wide open.

Cassim had heard the noise outside the cave. He knew the robbers had returned. He felt sure he would be killed. He thought he would try to escape. He stood close to the door. When the robbers entered, he rushed out and threw the leader to the ground. But the others caught hold of him and killed him in an instant.

The robbers saw the bags of gold Cassim had carried to the door. They could not tell how he had entered the cave. They knew he could not come through the hole in the top of the rock, because it was too high. At last they concluded to leave the cave and not return to it for some time. They were afraid others might know about this cave, and come here to get some gold. They concluded to cut Cassim's body into four pieces, and hang two quarters on each side of the door. They thought that if others came to the cave, this would frighten them, and they would not enter the cave. After they had cut his body into four pieces and hung it at the door, they mounted their horses and rode off. They did not intend to come back to the cave for some time.

When Cassim did not return to his home in the evening, his wife was very uneasy. She went to Ali Baba's house and told him Cassim had not yet returned. Ali Baba said he thought Cassim did not want to drive through the town in daylight, but would wait in the forest until it was quite dark. Then he would start home. Cassim's wife was satisfied, and she went back home. She sat up until midnight. But still Cassim did not come. She began to feel very much alarmed. She went to Ali Baba's house again and told him her husband had not returned. She was afraid the robbers had caught and killed him, or he had got lost in the

forest. She asked Ali Baba if he would go to the forest in search of her husband. Ali Baba consented to go. Cassim's wife returned home. She was sorry she had told Cassim about the gold. She waited anxiously for Ali Baba to find out where he was.

Ali Baba Finds Cassim's Dead Body in the Cave.

Ali Baba soon started to the cave in search of Cassim. He took three asses with him. When he reached the cave, he saw blood on the ground near the door. He hunted around for his brother, but he could see neither Cassim nor his ten mules. He went to the cave door and said: "Open, Sesame." The door opened. Ali Baba was horrified to see the body of his brother cut into four pieces, hanging inside of the door. He was very much grieved to find him dead. He took down the quarters of his brother's body and wrapped them in cloth. He placed them upon one of the asses and covered them with sticks of wood. He loaded the other two asses with sacks of gold. He covered these bags with wood. Then he commanded the door to close. He waited in the forest until it was dark, for he did not want any one to see him. When he reached home he left the two asses which were loaded with sacks of gold, in his own yard. He told his wife to take the bags of gold and put them away.

He led the ass carrying his brother Cassim's body to his sister-in-law's house. He knocked at the door. A female slave named Morgiana opened it. Morgiana was a very crafty and cunning woman. Ali Baba knew this. He led the ass into the yard. He first unloaded the wood. Then he took the dead body of Cassim from the ass. He said to the slave: "Morgiana, you must keep what I tell you secret. These two packets which you see contain the body of your dead master. He was killed by robbers, but we must not tell the people this. We must deceive them, and make them believe he died at home." Morgiana consented to obey Ali Baba.

Ali Baba then went to his sister-in-law. She was waiting anxiously for him. He told her all that had occurred. She be-

gan to cry and to grieve for Cassim. Ali Baba pitied her. He knew she was not very rich now. He offered to marry her and let her live with his other wife at his home. Cassim's widow knew Ali Baba was now very wealthy. She wanted very much to be rich. She finally concluded to marry Ali Baba. Ali Baba then went to Morgiana and told her to attend to Cassim's body. He left her and led his ass home.

Morgiana Deceives the Apothecary and the Cobbler.

Morgiana went to an apothecary who lived near. She knocked at the door. The apothecary opened it. She told him her master was sick. She gave him some money and said she wanted some medicine for him. The apothecary gave her the medicine, and she returned to the house with it. The next day, she went again to the apothecary. She told him her master was worse, and she wanted more medicine for him. She said: "I fear my master cannot live." The apothecary gave her the medicine quickly. She hurried back to the house with it. She deceived the apothecary, and made him think her master was really very sick.

During the day, Ali Baba and his wife went to Cassim's house frequently. The people saw them and thought Cassim must be very sick. Soon they heard that Cassim was dead.

The next morning, Morgiana went to visit a good old cobbler named Baba Mustapha. When she arrived there, she went into the shop and put a piece of gold into his hand. Baba Mustapha asked her why she gave him the gold. She said: "I want you to do some work for me. Take all your materials for sewing, and come with me at once. When we reach a certain place, you must let me put a bandage over your eyes."

Baba Mustapha did not want to do this. He was a good man, and he thought she wanted to make him do something wicked. Morgiana gave him another piece of gold and told him she would not ask him to do anything wrong. Then Baba Mustapha consented. He followed her for a short distance. Then she blindfolded him with her handkerchief and led him to her master's

house. She did not take the handkerchief from his eyes until they were in her master's room. Then she showed him the quarters of Cassim's body and said: "You must hurry and sew these quarters together, and when you are done, I will give you another piece of gold."

Baba Mustapha went to work and was soon done. Morgiana gave him the third piece of gold. She blindfolded him again, and led him until he was near his own home. She pulled off the bandage, and allowed him to see. She requested him not to tell any one about sewing this body together. She watched him until he reached his home. Then she went back to her master's house.

Ali Baba had washed his brother's body, and perfumed it with incense. He wrapped it in burying clothes, and put it in a coffin. Four neighbors carried the coffin on their shoulders to the cemetery. Many people followed them. None of the people suspected Cassim had been killed in the robbers' cave.

A few days after Cassim had been buried, Ali Baba married his sister-in-law, and moved to her house. He took his first wife, and the money he had taken from the robbers' cave with him. He was now very rich. He gave Cassim's store and the goods in it to his son. He did not work now, because he was very wealthy.

The Robbers Try to Find Out Who Knows Their Secret.

After a while, the robbers concluded to return to their cave. When they reached it, they were amazed to find Cassim's body missing. They looked about the cave, and saw that some one had taken a great deal of their gold. They were very much frightened. The captain of the band said: "We are not safe now. Another person knows how to enter this cave. If we do not find out who he is and kill him, he may come to the cave again with others, and take all our riches from us. We must find him out and kill him."

The robbers agreed that their captain was right. They concluded to stop stealing for a while, and try to find out who had taken Cassim's body from the cave.

The captain said: "One of you who is bold, courageous, and cunning must dress like a traveller, and go to the city. He must try to find out if any one has heard about Cassim. We are in danger, and he must be very careful not to betray us. If he brings us a false report, he must be killed."

One of the robbers said: "I will go, and if I fail, I can only die." He was anxious to make the rest of the band think he was very brave. The captain and his band praised the brave robber. The robber soon disguised himself, and started toward the city. He reached it at daybreak. He walked along the street for some distance. He saw but one shop open. This was Baba Mustapha's shop. He entered it.

Baba Mustapha was a very jolly, industrious man. He was sitting at work, whistling. It was not yet very light, because it was early. The robber spoke to Baba Mustapha. He asked him how he could see to work in that dark shop. Baba Mustapha replied: "I have excellent eyes, and can see very well. Not long ago I sewed up a dead body in a room darker than this one."

The robber was delighted when he heard this. He began to question Baba Mustapha, but Baba Mustapha would not tell him anything more. The robber put a piece of gold in his hand, and told him to lead him to the house in which he had sewed up the dead body. Baba Mustapha said: "I do not know where the house is. I was blindfolded and led to the house. It is impossible for me to tell you where it is."

"Well," said the robber, "you may remember a little of the way that you were led blindfolded. Let me blindfold you, and see if you can remember part of the way. Here is another piece of gold for you." Baba Mustapha took the gold, and allowed the stranger to blindfold him. He said: "I will try to lead you to the place, if I can."

Baba Mustapha led the robber to the place where Morgiana had bound his eyes. The robber blindfolded him. Baba Mustapha tried to remember the way he had been led by Morgiana. He walked on, and the robber followed him. Finally he stopped in front of Ali Baba's house. He said: "I think this is where

I stopped." The robber marked the door of Ali Baba's house with a piece of chalk. Then he took the handkerchief from Baba Mustapha's eyes. He asked him whose house it was. Baba Mustapha said he did not know. The robber thanked Baba Mustapha for leading him to the house. The cobbler then returned to his shop. The robber went back to the forest to tell the other robbers he had found the house of the man who had been in the cave.

Morgiana Outwits the Robbers.

Soon after the robber and Baba Mustapha had left Ali Baba's house, Morgiana came out to get something. She noticed the white mark the robber had made on the door. She looked at it closely. She did not know who had made the mark. But she began to think some one wanted to harm her master. She was not sure. She went into the house and got a piece of chalk. She marked a few of the other houses on the street with a mark just like the one on Ali Baba's door. She did not tell Ali Baba about the mark which was on the door.

The robber soon reached the forest again. He went into the cave, and found the others waiting for him. He told them his adventure, and they were all delighted. The captain praised him, and said: "Let us now hurry and kill the man who entered the cave as soon as we can. We will all go to the town, but not together. Each man must arm himself well. Only two or three must go together. I will go with my friend who found the house. We will meet you all in town, and tell you what to do."

The robbers obeyed their captain. They reached the town in safety. The people did not notice them. They all met on one of the streets of the town, and waited for their captain. When the captain and his friend reached the town, they went straight to Ali Baba's house. But the captain noticed that many houses were marked with a white mark. He asked his friend which was the house. His friend was both surprised and confused. He did not know which was the house he had marked. He told the captain he had marked but one house. He did not know which it was,

because some one had marked the other houses just like it. The captain went to meet the other robbers, and told them to return to the cave, because they could not find the right house. They all obeyed him at once. When all were inside the cave, and the door was closed, he said: "A number of houses have been marked, and we could not find out which was the right one."

The robber who had first gone to town to find the house, and had failed, was condemned to die. He knelt down, and his head was cut off by one of the robbers.

Another robber offered to try to find the house. The captain said he might try; but, if he failed, he must die. The robber started to the city. He soon found Baba Mustapha's house. He bribed Baba Mustapha to lead him to the same house to which he had led the other robber. Before he took the handkerchief from Baba Mustapha's eyes, he marked the house with a piece of red chalk, where he thought no one would see it. Then he allowed Baba Mustapha to go back to his shop, and he returned to the forest.

Not long after, Morgiana left the house. She was a very sharp woman. She saw the red chalk mark at once. She went into the house and got a piece of red chalk. Then she marked some of their neighbors' houses just like it.

When the robber returned to the cave, he told the others what he had done. All thought they would be successful this time. They went to town as before. When the captain and his friend, the robber, reached the same street, he saw a number of houses with a red chalk mark on them. The robber did not know how to explain it. They all had to go back to the cave again. The captain was very much enraged because the robber had failed to show him the house. The robber was condemned to die, and his head was soon cut off.

The Captain of the Robbers Tries a New Plan.

The captain did not wish any more of the robbers to be killed, so he decided to go to the town and find the house himself. He left the robbers in the cave. He visited Baba Mustapha, and gave

him some gold. Baba Mustapha led him to the same place he had led the other two. The captain did not mark the house, but he observed it very carefully. He passed by it again and again, until he was sure he would remember it. Then he returned to the cave. He told the robbers he had found the house, and had planned how to kill the owner. He sent a number of the robbers to town to buy nineteen mules and thirty-eight large leather jars. He told them one must be filled with oil, but the others must be empty. In a few days, they returned with the mules, the oil, and the jars. The jars were very large ones.

The captain put one robber into each empty jar. Each robber was well armed. The captain rubbed oil on the outside of each jar. He was very cunning. He wanted to make any one who saw them believe there was oil in the jars. He put these thirty-seven jars containing the robbers, and the one jar of oil, upon the backs of the mules. Then he started toward the town.

He reached it at dusk in the evening. He led his mules through the streets to Ali Baba's house. Ali Baba was sitting on the front steps. The captain pretended he was an oil merchant. He stopped his mules and said to Ali Baba: "I have brought some oil from a great distance. I want to sell it at market to-morrow. It is now very late, and I do not know where to lodge to-night. If you will allow me to stay with you, I shall thank you very much."

Ali Baba had heard the captain of the robbers speak in the forest. But the robber had disguised himself, and Ali Baba did not recognize his voice. He told the captain he might stay there if he wished. He immediately opened his gates and let the mules into the yard. He called his slave, Abdalla, and told him to unload the mules, put them in the stable, and feed them with corn and hay. He told Morgiana to cook a good supper for the oil merchant, and make him a good bed. Ali Baba treated the pretended oil merchant very kindly. He led him into the house, where he ate his supper.

The captain of the robbers wanted to sleep in the yard, so that he could easily waken the other robbers that night. They meant to kill Ali Baba.

Ali Baba was very kind, and did not want him to sleep in the yard. He told him he must sleep in a bed in the house. The captain was afraid to refuse, for fear Ali Baba might suspect him. So he consented to sleep in the house.

Ali Baba went into the kitchen to see Morgiana. He told her to take good care of his guest, the oil merchant. He said: "I will go to the bath to-morrow morning before daylight. You must have my bathing linen ready, and give them to Abdalla. Have some good broth ready for me when I return." He then went to bed.

While Ali Baba was in the kitchen, the captain went to the yard to tell the robbers what to do. He began at the first jar and said to each man: "When I throw some stones out of the window of the room in which I lie, cut open the leather jar you are in with your sharp, pointed knife, and come out; I will soon join you." He then returned to the kitchen. Morgiana took a light and showed him his bed room. After she went back to the kitchen, the captain blew out the light, but he did not undress. He lay down on the bed with his clothes on.

Morgiana remembered what Ali Baba had told her. She got his bathing linen. She told Abdalla to put the pot on the fire for the broth. While she was making the broth, the lamp went out. There was no more oil in the house. She knew the broth must be made, and she did not know what to do. She became very uneasy. Abdalla saw that she was uneasy. He said: "Do not fret, but go into the yard and take some oil out of one of the jars." Then Abdalla went to bed.

Morgiana Goes for Oil and Discovers the Robbers.

Morgiana thought she would do as Abdalla had told her. She took the oil pot and went to the yard. When she got near the jars, the robbers heard her. They thought it was their captain. She went to the first jar to get the oil. The robber said softly: "Is it time?"

Morgiana was frightened for a minute. She did not know

any one was in the jar. She thought the jar contained oil. But she did not scream or make any noise. She knew that the men had come there to harm her master. She said to the robber: "Not yet, but in a little while." She went to all the other jars. The robber in each jar said: "Is it time?" and she told each one: "Not yet, but in a little while." When she came to the last jar, she found it filled with oil. She filled her lamp with it, and hastened into the house. She now knew that her master's guest was not an oil merchant, but a robber; and had come there to harm her master. She had counted thirty-seven robbers in the jars. She knew Ali Baba and his family were in great danger. She was a very brave woman, and she determined to save them. She lit her lamp. Then she took a large kettle and went back to the jar of oil in the yard. She filled the kettle with oil, and carried it into the house. She put it on a great wood fire to boil. When it was boiling hot she took it from the fire. She carried the boiling hot oil to the yard. Then she quickly poured some of it on each robber, and scalded him to death. When she saw the robbers were dead, she returned to the kitchen. She shut the door, and put out the fire she had made, and the lamp. But she did not go to bed. She thought she would stay in the kitchen and see what would happen. She watched through a window in the kitchen.

In a short time, the captain of the robbers woke and went to the window of his room. He could see the large jars in the yard from his window. He opened the window and listened. As he heard no noise, he thought every one was in bed. He could not see Morgiana, but she could see him. He threw some small stones at the jars to waken the robbers. He listened again, but he heard no one move. He threw stones again and again against the jars. Still all was quiet. He began to feel much alarmed and went softly down into the yard. He did not know the robbers were dead. He went to the first jar. He asked the robber, who he thought was alive, if he was asleep. No one answered him. He went very close to the jar, and, in an instant, smelled the hot boiled oil. He now knew his plan to kill Ali Baba had been discovered. He examined all the jars, and found every robber dead. He

missed the oil from the last jar. Then he knew they had been scalded to death with it. He was exceedingly enraged. But he knew he could now do nothing. He was afraid he would be killed if he stayed in Ali Baba's house until morning. So he broke open the door between the yard and the garden. When he got into the garden, he climbed over the wall and escaped.

Morgiana heard no noise, and she guessed the captain of the robbers had escaped over the garden wall. She was pleased and satisfied, because she had saved Ali Baba's life. She locked all the doors of the house. Then she went to bed, and was soon sound asleep.

Morgiana Shows the Dead Robbers to Ali Baba.

In the morning, Ali Baba arose early and went to the baths. Morgiana did not tell him about the robbers. When he returned from the baths, he was surprised to see the oil jars still in the yard. He expected to find the merchant, his mules, and his jars of oil gone. He did not understand why the oil jars were still in the yard. He asked Morgiana why the merchant had not gone to market. Morgiana said: "If you will come with me, I will show you what you want to know." She opened the door, and went into the yard. Ali Baba followed her. She told him to look into the jar, and see if there was oil in it. Ali Baba did so, but when he saw a man in it, he was very much frightened, and cried out. Morgiana said: "Do not be afraid. That man cannot harm you, for he is dead."

Ali Baba asked her how the dead man came to be in the jar. She told him to speak quietly, and not let their neighbors know about the robbers. She told him to look into all the other jars. Ali Baba examined the other jars, and found a man in each. He was amazed. He looked into the last jar, and saw nearly all the oil gone. He said to Morgiana: "Where is the merchant?" Morgiana said: "I will tell you all about it. Go to your room, and I will bring you the broth. While you are drinking it, I will tell you the story."

Ali Baba went to his room. Morgiana got the broth, and car-

ried it to him. She then told him about the robbers. She said: "Last night, after you went to bed, I got your bathing linens, and gave them to Abdalla. I then set on the pot for the broth. My lamp went out, because there was no oil in it. There was no oil in the house. I looked for a candle, but I could not find one. Abdalla told me to get some oil from one of the jars in the yard. I took the oil pot, and went to the yard. When I got near the first jar, I heard some one say: 'Is it time?' I was both surprised and alarmed, but I answered: 'Not yet; but in a little while.' Then I went to each of the other jars. There was a man in each jar. The same question was asked by each, and to each I said: 'Not yet; but in a little while.' In the last jar I found oil, and filled my lamp. I knew there were thirty-seven robbers in these jars who meant to kill you and your family. I hurried back to the kitchen. I took a large kettle, carried it to the yard, and filled it with oil. I took it to the house, and set it on the fire to boil. When it was boiling hot, I carried it to the yard, and poured some of it on each robber. The hot oil scalded him to death. I then went to the kitchen and put out the light. I stayed at the window to watch what would happen. In a short time, the captain of the robbers opened his window. He threw some stones out of the window against the jars. He threw several times. All the robbers were dead, so they could not answer him. He did not know this. He came downstairs, and went to every jar. It was very dark, and I lost sight of him. He did not return to the house, and I think he escaped over the garden wall. Then I locked the doors, and went to bed. I slept soundly until morning."

Then she told Ali Baba about the marks she had seen on the door a few days before. She told him how she had marked their neighbors' doors. She said she thought it was the robbers from whom Ali Baba had taken the gold, who had marked the door.

Ali Baba was very grateful to Morgiana for saving him and his family. He thanked her many times. He told her she should be a slave no longer. He said he would free her.

Ali Baba's garden was very long. A large number of trees were at one end of it. Ali Baba and his slave, Abdalla, dug a

trench under these trees. They took the bodies of the dead robbers out of the jars. They took away their weapons, and carried the bodies to the trench, and buried them in it. Then they hid the large jars and the weapons. Ali Baba did not need the mules, so he sent them to market, and sold them.

The Captain of the Robbers Plans to Kill Ali Baba.

The captain of the forty robbers, who had escaped over the garden wall, returned to the forest. He did not know what to do. He reached the cave, and entered it. The cave was very lonely, and he was frightened for a while. He began to mourn for his friends, the dead robbers. He determined to kill Ali Baba, before he assembled a new troop. He soon laid down to sleep and slept soundly until morning.

Early the next morning, he awoke. He dressed himself, and went back to town. He got lodging in an inn. He thought the people would know about the robbers who had been killed in Ali Baba's yard. He asked the innkeeper what news there was in the city. The innkeeper told him a number of things, but said nothing about any robbers. The captain thought Ali Baba had kept the secret, because he did not want other people to know about the treasures. He was afraid of Ali Baba, and was determined to kill him as soon as he could.

He bought a horse and went to the cave. He brought from the cave a great many sorts of rich stuffs and fine linen to his room in the inn. Each day he carried more goods from the cave to his room. Soon his room was filled with them. He wanted to sell these goods, so he rented a furnished shop on one of the streets. This shop was just opposite the one Ali Baba's son owned. The captain said his name was Cogia Houssain. He was extremely civil and pleasant to all his neighbors. He soon became acquainted with Ali Baba's son. This son was a very smart young man, and Cogia Houssain liked to talk to him.

One day Cogia Houssain saw Ali Baba go into his son's store. He recognized him at once. He found out that his friend, the

merchant, was Ali Baba's son. He was very anxious to get this son to like him. He often asked Ali Baba's son to dine and sup with him. He gave him a number of presents, too.

Ali Baba's son thought he ought to ask Cogia Houssain to dine with him, because he had dined very often with Cogia Houssain. He had a very small house, and he did not like to take Cogia Houssain to it. He told his father this. His father invited him to bring Cogia Houssain to his house the next day to sup. His son consented to do so.

Ali Baba Invites the Robber Captain to Sup with Him.

The next day, Ali Baba's son asked Cogia Houssain to take a walk. While they were out walking, they came to Ali Baba's house. Ali Baba's son stopped and said: "This is my father's house. He has asked me to bring you to see him. He wishes to become acquainted with you. So come in and let me introduce you to him."

Cogia Houssain was delighted. But he was very cunning, and he pretended he did not want to go in. Ali Baba's son insisted. Then he consented. Ali Baba had heard his son speak very often of Cogia Houssain. He was very glad to see him and he shook hands with him and thanked him for being kind to his son.

They talked for some time. Finally, Cogia Houssain rose to leave. Ali Baba said: "Do not leave, but stay and sup with me." Cogia Houssain said: "I am very sorry I cannot do so." Ali Baba asked him why. He said: "It is because I can eat no victuals with salt on them. How should I look at your table?"

Ali Baba said: "Then you must stay and sup with me. There is never any salt put into my bread, and I will tell the servant not to put salt on the meat and other victuals. Please excuse me, and I will go and tell her at once." Ali Baba went to the kitchen, and told Morgiana to put no salt on the meat and other victuals. He told her his guest, Cogia Houssain, could not eat salt on his victuals.

MORGIANA RECOGNIZES THE ROBBER AND OUTWITS HIM AGAIN.

Morgiana was very much surprised to hear this. She was anxious to see the man who would eat no salt in his victuals. When supper was ready, she helped Abdalla carry a few of the dishes to the table, because she wanted to see Cogia Houssain. He had disguised himself, but Morgiana was very sharp. As soon as she saw him, she knew he was the captain of the robbers. She examined him very carefully. She noticed a dagger hid under his garment. She now knew it was because he intended to kill Ali Baba that he would eat no salt with him. She determined to prevent him from killing her master.

While they were eating, she was thinking how to outwit Cogia Houssain. After they had finished eating, she took the wine to them. She put it and three small glasses on a table by Ali Baba. Then she went back to the kitchen with Abdalla.

Cogia Houssain thought he would now try to kill Ali Baba. He meant to make the father and son both drunk. He did not wish to hurt the son. He thought he could kill Ali Baba while his son was drunk, and unable to assist his father. While the slaves were at supper he could escape over the garden walls as before.

Morgiana suspected that Cogia Houssain intended to kill Ali Baba. She did not go to supper, but quickly dressed herself like a dancer. She put a fancy head-dress on her head, and a silver-gilt girdle around her waist. A beautiful dagger hung to the girdle. She put a mask on her face. She said to Abdalla: "Take your tabor, and let us go and amuse our master and his guest."

Abdalla took his tabor, and they danced into the room where Ali Baba, his son, and their guest were sitting. Ali Baba was much pleased, and told them to play and dance for his guest. Cogia Houssain was very much enraged. He wanted to be alone with Ali Baba, so that he could get him drunk and kill him. But he did not let Ali Baba know he was angry. He pretended he was much pleased with the dancing.

Morgiana was a very pretty dancer. After she had danced around the room a number of times, she drew the dagger and held it in her hand. She began to dance again. Sometimes she presented the dagger to Ali Baba's breast, sometimes to his son's, and sometimes to her own. After she had finished dancing, she held out Abdalla's tabor to each one. Both Ali Baba and his son put a piece of gold into the tabor. Morgiana held the tabor toward Cogia Houssain. He pulled his purse out of his breast pocket. While he was putting his hand into it to get some money, Morgiana plunged the dagger into his heart. He fell to the floor dead.

Ali Baba and his son were much frightened. Ali Baba asked Morgiana if she wanted to ruin him and his family. Morgiana opened Cogia Houssain's coat, and showed Ali Baba the dagger which was hid under it. She said: "Look well at him, and you will see he is the pretended oil merchant, and the captain of the forty thieves. You remember he would eat no salt with you. I suspected him, when you told me to put no salt in his victuals. I went to the room to see him. I recognized him at once. You see now, that he came here again to kill you."

Ali Baba was very grateful to Morgiana for saving his life the second time. He embraced her and said: "I will not only give you your liberty, but I will give you my son for a husband. You have saved his father's life, and perhaps his own life too. I am sure he will not refuse to make you his wife."

Ali Baba's son was fond of Morgiana, and consented at once to marry her. They buried the captain in the trench with the other robbers. No one knew about this till many years after.

Soon after the captain was buried, Ali Baba's son and Morgiana were married. Ali Baba did not go back to the robbers' cave for a long time. He knew there were forty robbers, and Morgiana had killed but thirty-eight of them. He thought the other two were still in the cave. He did not know they had been killed by the other robbers. He waited for a year. As nothing had happened, he thought he would visit the cave again. He looked around outside of the cave. He saw no footsteps either of

men or horses. He got off his horse and tied him to a tree. Then he went to the door and said: "OPEN, SESAME." The door opened and he entered. He saw that no one had been in the cave since Cogia Houssain had died.

He took the goods from the cave to his shop. He now knew the forty robbers were dead, and that he was the only one who knew the secret of the cave. He carried much gold on his horse from the cave to his home.

After a while, he took his son to the cave, and taught him the secret. They now had great riches. They lived in great honor and splendor all their lives.

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE.

SHYLOCK was a rich Jew. He lived in a city called Venice. He became rich by lending money to Christian merchants. He made the Christian merchants pay much interest on the money. He was a very cruel, hard-hearted man, and was disliked by all good men.

Antonio, a young merchant, lived in Venice. He was a very generous and good man. He lent much money to the poor people, and did not ask any interest for it. Shylock hated Antonio, because Antonio was so kind and generous. When Antonio met Shylock, he reproached Shylock for being cruel and hard-hearted. Shylock was cunning, and would not appear angry with Antonio. He pretended to be very patient. He was treacherous, and vowed to take revenge.

Antonio was the kindest man in Venice. He was always doing some kind act. He was greatly beloved by all who knew him.

Antonio had one favorite among all his friends. This favorite's name was Bassanio. Bassanio was a nobleman. He was a very extravagant man, and spent almost all his fortune. When Bassanio wanted money, he borrowed it from Antonio. Antonio was always willing to lend him money. Bassanio loved Antonio very much. One day Bassanio went to Antonio. He told him he

wished to marry a very rich lady. He said he loved the lady very dearly. He told Antonio the lady's father had died and left her all his money and lands. He said he had visited the lady, and thought she loved him. He said he was afraid to ask the lady to marry him, because he was poor. He asked Antonio to lend him three thousand ducats. A ducat was a dollar. Antonio had not so much money to lend at that time. Antonio had many ships laden with merchandise coming soon. He told Bassanio he would go to Shylock and borrow the money. Antonio said he would pay Shylock the money when his ships arrived. Bassanio was opposed to this, but Antonio refused to listen to Bassanio. They went together to Shylock. Antonio asked Shylock to lend him the money. He told Shylock he would pay him when his ships came.

He asked Shylock how much interest he wanted for lending the money. Shylock hesitated. He now thought he could be revenged. He did not answer Antonio. Antonio became very impatient, and said: "Shylock, do you hear me?" Shylock then said: "Many times you have talked about me, and I have been very patient. You called me names and spurned me. Now you come to borrow money from me."

Antonio then said: "I will call you names again, and I will spurn you again. Will you lend me the money?" He told Shylock he would pay him as much interest as he wanted for lending him the money. Finally Shylock consented to lend the money to Antonio. He told Antonio he would not charge him anything for lending the money. Antonio was greatly surprised. He thought Shylock was becoming very generous. Shylock then asked Antonio to go with him to a lawyer. He asked Antonio to sign a bond in fun. Antonio must pay Shylock on a certain day. And if he did not pay him on that day, Shylock could cut a pound of flesh from Antonio's body. Antonio laughed and said he would sign the bond. Bassanio did not want Antonio to sign such a bond. Antonio told him he was not afraid to sign the bond. He said he could pay Shylock when his ships came. They all went to the lawyer, and when it was ready, Antonio signed the bond.

Shylock then gave him the three thousand ducats, and Antonio gave the money to Bassanio.

Bassanio went and bought fine clothes. He was now very happy. He hired a servant named Gratiano. The rich lady lived near Venice, at a place named Belmont. Her name was Portia. She was very graceful, beautiful, and wise. Bassanio and Gratiano dressed very finely and started for Belmont. They arrived at Belmont, and Bassanio hastened to see Portia. Portia was glad to see him, and in a short time consented to marry him. She loved him very much.

Bassanio told Portia that he was a nobleman, but was poor. Portia told him that she had enough money for both. She said she loved him because he was good. She told him she was very lonely. Portia had many servants and a large house, but had no father and mother.

Portia told Bassanio that when he married her, she would give him all her money and the house and servants. He was surprised that so rich and beautiful a lady should be so kind to him. Portia gave him a ring. He put the ring on his finger, and vowed never to give it away.

Portia had a waiting maid named Nerissa. Gratiano fell in love with Nerissa. He asked her to marry him, and she consented. She also gave Gratiano a ring, and he vowed never to give it away.

Portia told Nerissa she was going to marry Bassanio. Nerissa was much pleased. Nerissa then told Portia she wished to marry Gratiano. They all decided to be married the same day. They were very happy. Just then a messenger came from Venice. He had a letter from Antonio. The letter contained very bad news. Bassanio read the letter, and his face became very white. Portia was frightened, and she asked Bassanio what the matter was. He told her he had very bad news. He told Portia he had borrowed three thousand ducats from Antonio; he then told her about the bond Antonio had signed. He said all Antonio's ships had been lost, and he had no money to pay Shylock. The cruel Jew now wanted the pound of flesh cut from Antonio's body nearest the heart. Antonio wished to see Bassanio before he died.

Bassanio was much grieved. Portia told Bassanio she would give him the money to pay Shylock. Portia and Bassanio, and Nerissa and Gratiano were married immediately. The same day, Bassanio and Gratiano started for Venice. When they arrived, they found Antonio in prison. The day that Antonio had promised to pay Shylock was past. Bassanio went to Shylock. He offered him the money, but Shylock refused to take it. He did not want the money. He really wanted to kill Antonio. He insisted that he must have the pound of flesh. The Duke appointed a day to try this dreadful case.

After Bassanio and Gratiano left for Venice, Portia began to think. She was afraid Antonio would lose his life. She resolved to go to Venice. She called Nerissa and told her they must go to Venice. Portia had a relative named Bellario who was a lawyer. She wrote a letter to him. She told him about Antonio and asked him for advice. She also asked him to send her a man's suit. He wrote her a letter and sent the man's suit.

Portia dressed herself and Nerissa in men's clothes. She took Nerissa along with her as her clerk. They started for Venice. They arrived at Venice on the day of the trial. The Duke and Senators of Venice were all assembled in the court. Portia and Nerissa entered the court. Bellario had written a letter to the Duke. Portia gave the letter to the Duke. Bellario told the Duke in the letter that he could not come, but he sent young doctor Balthasar to plead for Antonio. The Duke consented to let the doctor plead the case. The doctor looked very handsome. The Duke was pleased with her. The trial began. Portia looked around, and she saw the merciless Jew and Bassanio. Bassanio did not know her, because she was disguised. He was standing beside Antonio.

Portia first spoke to Shylock. She said she knew the law allowed him to cut a pound of flesh from Antonio's body. She begged Shylock to be merciful. She told him he must be merciful, if he hoped for mercy from God. Shylock would not listen to her. He said he must have the pound of flesh. Bassanio offered thirty thousand ducats to Shylock, if he would let Antonio go.

Shylock again refused. He was determined to have the pound of flesh. Portia then asked him to let her look at the bond. She read it, and then said the law could not be changed. Shylock was very much pleased to hear Portia say this. He thought she was helping him. He praised her, and said: "O wise young judge, how I do honor you! How much older are you than your looks!" Portia again asked the Jew to be merciful. She said: "Take the money, and let me tear the bond." But Shylock was very cruel, and would show no mercy. He vowed he would have the pound of flesh. Portia then told Antonio to bare his bosom. Shylock sharpened a long knife. He was very eager to cut off the pound of flesh. Portia asked Antonio if he wished to say anything. Antonio said he had little to say. He turned to Bassanio, and said: "Give me your hand! Fare you well! You must not grieve for me! Tell your wife I have loved her very much." Bassanio was much grieved. He said he would give his life, if he could save Antonio.

The Jew was very impatient to cut off the pound of flesh. Portia asked if the scales were ready to weigh the flesh. She said to the Jew: "You must have a surgeon here. Antonio might bleed to death." The Jew refused. Portia then said: "A pound of Antonio's flesh is yours. You may cut this flesh from off his breast. This bond gives you no drop of blood. If you shed one drop of Antonio's blood, your land and goods must be forfeited to the state of Venice."

Shylock knew he could not cut off the pound of flesh without shedding blood. He was very much disappointed. He had thought he would be allowed to kill Antonio. When the people heard Portia say that Shylock must not shed blood, they were delighted. They knew Antonio was saved. Bassanio offered the three thousand ducats to Shylock. Shylock was going to take the money, but Portia would not let him. She said: "Your land and goods are all forfeited to the state, because you tried to kill Antonio. The law says that any person who tries to kill a citizen of Venice must lose his goods, his lands, and his life. If the Duke wishes to kill you he can do so."

Shylock was much frightened. The Duke said to Shylock: "You were not merciful to Antonio, but I will be merciful to you. Half your goods and lands I give to Antonio. The other half belongs to the state. I will give you your life."

Antonio was very generous. He said he would not take half of Shylock's goods and lands, if Shylock would give them to his own daughter. Shylock's daughter was named Jessica. Shylock was angry at Jessica, because she had married Lorenzo. Shylock had disinherited her. Lorenzo was Antonio's friend, and Antonio was fond of him. Shylock finally agreed to do this. The Jew said he was sick, and would like to go home. He told them to send the deed to him, and he would sign it, and give half of his goods and lands to Jessica. The Duke said: "If you become a Christian, and learn to be merciful, I will let you keep the other half of your goods and lands."

The Duke released Antonio. He praised Portia for her wisdom and invited her to take dinner with him. Portia thanked him, but refused. She said she must go home at once. The Duke and his Senators left the court. Bassanio and Antonio were very grateful to Portia. They offered to give her three thousand ducats. Portia would not take them. Bassanio insisted. Portia said: "Give me your gloves, and I will wear them for your sake." Bassanio then took off his gloves. Portia saw the ring which she had given him. She asked him to give it to her. Bassanio was troubled. He said: "I cannot give you this ring, because my wife gave it to me. I promised never to give it away. I will buy you the most valuable ring in Venice; but I cannot give you this one." Portia pretended she was angry, and left the court. Antonio told Bassanio that he ought to give the ring to Portia. Bassanio did not wish Antonio to think he was ungrateful, so he sent Gratiano after Portia with the ring.

Portia returned home. She was very happy, because she had saved Antonio's life. She and her maid, Nerissa, dressed themselves, and waited for their husbands. Soon their husbands arrived. They brought Antonio with them. Bassanio introduced Antonio to his wife. While they were talking, Gratiano and

Nerissa began to quarrel with each other. Portia asked what the matter was. Nerissa said she had given her husband a ring, and he had given it to a woman. Gratiano said: "I did not give it to a woman. I gave it to a youth who was with young doctor Balthasar. The boy begged for it, and I could not deny him." Portia then said: "You were wrong, Gratiano. You should not have given away your wife's first gift. I gave my husband a ring, and I am sure he would not give it away." Gratiano said: "My lord, Bassanio, gave his ring to young doctor Balthasar. Then the boy begged my ring." Portia pretended she was very angry with Bassanio for giving the ring away. Bassanio was very unhappy because his wife was angry. He told her why he had given the ring away. Antonio blamed himself for causing the quarrel. Portia told Antonio not to grieve. Antonio said: "Your husband gave the ring to the man that saved my life. I am sure he will never break his word again." Portia took the ring that Bassanio had given to her at Venice from her finger. She gave it to Antonio, and said: "Give Bassanio this ring, and tell him to keep it better than the other."

When Bassanio saw the ring, he was much surprised. He knew it was the ring he had given to young doctor Balthasar. He did not understand how Portia got it. Portia told him she was the young doctor Balthasar. She said she had disguised herself. Bassanio now knew it was Portia who had saved Antonio's life. He was delighted. Portia gave Antonio some letters. The letters said, that Antonio's ships were not lost, but had arrived safely in the harbor at Venice. Antonio was again rich. They were all very happy now, and forgot all about their trouble with Shylock.

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD.

Little Red Riding Hood lived in a cottage near a large forest. Her father was a woodcutter, and he went to the forest every day to cut down trees. Her mother kept cows and chickens.

THE WOLF WAS VERY POLITE TO LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

She sold eggs, milk, and butter. Red Riding Hood's grandmother lived alone in a little house in the forest. She was old and sick. Red Riding Hood visited her grandmother every day. She always carried something good to her grandmother. She was very kind, but she was sometimes forgetful.

One morning, Red Riding Hood's mother made some cakes. She put the cakes and a jar of honey in a basket. She gave the basket to Red Riding Hood. She told her to put on her red cloak and carry the basket to her grandmother. Red Riding Hood put on her cloak and hood, and started. Her mother told her to hurry, and not stop on the way to gather flowers.

When Red Riding Hood was walking through the forest, she met a wolf. The wolf was very polite to Red Riding Hood. She talked to the wolf a long time. Then the wolf asked Red Riding Hood where she was going. She told him she was going to see her grandmother. He asked her what she had in her basket. She told him she had some cakes and a jar of honey. Red Riding Hood then started to go. The wolf told her to stop and gather some pretty flowers. He showed her where many pretty flowers were growing. He said the flowers would please her grandmother. Red Riding Hood gathered some flowers, and then sat down on the grass and made a bouquet.

While Red Riding Hood was gathering the flowers, the wolf ran quickly through the forest. He arrived at the grandmother's house and rapped at the door. The grandmother thought the wolf was Red Riding Hood. She said: "Lift up the latch and walk in." The wolf opened the door and walked into the house. He jumped upon the bed. The grandmother was frightened and screamed. The wolf ate the grandmother. Then he put on the grandmother's spectacles and her night-cap and got into bed and covered himself with the bed-clothes. He waited till Red Riding Hood should come.

When she came, she rapped at the door. The wolf said: "Lift up the latch and walk in." Red Riding Hood opened the door and walked into the house. She went up to the bed. She said: "Grandmother, how do you feel this morning?" The wolf

said: "I have a bad cold." The wolf told her to get into bed. Red Riding Hood got into bed. She looked at the wolf. She said: "Oh, Grandmother, your eyes have grown so large." The wolf said: "I can see better with large eyes." Red Riding Hood said: "Oh, Grandmother, your nose is so long." The wolf said: "I can smell better with a long nose." Red Riding Hood said: "Oh, Grandmother, what large ears you have." The wolf said: "I can hear you better with large ears." Red Riding Hood then said: "Oh, Grandmother, what a large mouth you have." Just then, the wolf seized Red Riding Hood to eat her. She screamed as loud as she could. A woodcutter was passing the house. He heard Red Riding Hood screaming and ran into the house to see what the matter was. He saw the wolf with Red Riding Hood in his paws. He hit the wolf on the head with his axe and killed him. Just then, Red Riding Hood's father came to the house. He took Red Riding Hood home.

THE MAID OF ORLEANS.

Four hundred and fifty years ago, there was a war between France and England. The king of France died. He was called Charles the Sixth. He was a bad king, and the people did not like him. When he died, his son, Charles the Seventh, took the throne. A few of the people were dissatisfied. They did not want Charles the Seventh to be their king. They asked the king of England to be their king. The king of England was Henry the Sixth. Henry gathered a large army, and went to France to drive Charles from his throne.

Charles gathered a large army to fight the English when they came. The French soldiers and the English soldiers met and fought a battle. The English soldiers were victorious. They fought many other battles and the English were always victorious. The French people were much alarmed at this, and the soldiers were discouraged with their defeats.

Now a man prophesied that France could only be delivered from its enemies by a maiden. A peasant girl heard of the prophecy. Her name was Joan of Arc. She lived in a village called Domremy. She was a very good and pious girl. She was eighteen years old. She often went to the church to pray. One day when she was praying, she thought an angel appeared before her. The angel said: "You are the maiden who will deliver France from its enemies." Joan arose from her knees and went home. She told her parents about the angel, and her parents thought she was crazy.

Joan coaxed her parents to let her go to the king. Her parents went to an old priest and told the priest about Joan. The priest believed the story and advised her parents to let her go to the king. Her parents were afraid to let her go so far alone. The king lived in Poictiers, and it was many miles from Domremy to Poictiers. The priest said he would go with her. Joan and the priest travelled together in a cart. They were many days on the road.

At last they arrived at Poictiers. They went to the king's house. Joan told the king what the angel had said. The king did not believe her story and sent her away. After this the French soldiers were defeated in many battles. King Charles became very much discouraged. Then he sent for Joan of Arc to come to him. She went and he told her she must lead the French soldiers against the English.

King Charles gave Joan a white horse and a suit of white armor. She put on her white armor and mounted her horse. She set out for Orleans with the French banner in her hand. Many knights and pages went with her. It was a great distance from Poictiers to Orleans, and the road was very dangerous. She stopped in every village to which they came, and went to the church to pray.

At last they arrived safely at Orleans. Orleans is a city in France. It was the strongest city in France. The French soldiers were in Orleans, and the English laid siege to the city. If the English could take Orleans, they would drive Charles from the

throne of France. The French soldiers were very much discouraged. When Joan arrived at Orleans, the battle began.

Joan led the French soldiers. She encouraged them by her bravery. She was wounded twice during the battle, but she drew the arrows from her body, and staid with the soldiers until the

JOAN LED THE FRENCH SOLDIERS

battle was over. The French gained a great victory. She was then named the Maid of Orleans, because she drove the English from Orleans. She then led the king and the soldiers to Rheims. King Henry of England was on his way to Rheims at the same time. Rheims was the city where the kings of France were always crowned. Charles had never been crowned. He was going to Rheims to be crowned now. Henry was going to Rheims also to be crowned. Each was trying to arrive at Rheims first. The

one who was crowned first would be king. Joan urged Charles and the soldiers to ride fast. Charles arrived at Rheims first, and was crowned king of France.

Joan now thought her work was done. She wanted to go home to help her sisters take care of the sheep. But the soldiers would not let her go. She asked king Charles to dismiss her from the army, but he refused. A short time afterward, the English soldiers captured her. They took her to Rouen and put her in prison for life. King Charles did not try to take her from the English. When they put her in prison, they hung her armor on the wall before her. They commanded her not to put it on again. They told her if she put it on they would kill her.

The officers who guarded her were very mean and cruel. She was chained to a plank by both feet, night and day. Some men would go into her cell and taunt and beat her. One day she was tempted to put on her armor. She could not resist the temptation. She took it down and put it on. An officer was watching her, and he ran and told the English. They took her to the old fish-market and tied her to a stake. They said she was a witch. They put wood and straw around her. They set fire to it and burned her to death.

RHŒCUS AND THE DRYAD.

The Greeks thought that every tree had a spirit. These spirits of trees were called Dryads. The Greeks had many beautiful stories about them. I will tell you one.

A young man named Rhœcus was walking in the woods one day. He saw a very beautiful old oak tree and he stood and looked at it. He admired it very much. The tree was about to fall down. But Rhœcus did not want so pretty a tree to fall down and die. So he got poles and carefully propped up the old tree. He stood admiring the gray trunk and green leaves for a few moments. Then he turned away from the tree and carelessly walked on.

Just then he heard a low voice behind him saying: "Rhœcus!"

It sounded to him like the wind blowing through the leaves of the trees. He was astonished, and he stopped and listened. Again he heard the voice saying softly: "Rhœcus!"

He looked and was very much startled to see a beautiful woman standing under the oak tree. He was greatly surprised, and he thought he was dreaming. The woman was more beautiful than any woman he had ever seen or heard of. A warm light shone around her. She looked like an angel. Her eyes were very pretty and meek. She spoke, and her words were sweet, gentle, and like drops of dew. She said: "Rhœcus, I am the Dryad of this tree. With the tree I live and with the tree I die. The rain and the sunshine feed me. I live and am happy. To live is all the happiness I have. You have saved my life. Ask me anything you wish and, if I can give it, you shall have it. I will be very glad to do anything for you. I want to thank you."

Then Rhœcus spoke, while his heart beat fast. He said: "Beautiful Dryad, nothing is dearer to a man than love. Will you love me and be my wife? That is what I must always want more than anything else."

The Dryad hesitated a few moments, and then she said: "Rhœcus, I give you my love, but it is a dangerous gift. Meet me here one hour before sunset." Then the form of the Dryad vanished. Rhœcus looked, but he could see only the green leaves and the shadows of the oak. He listened. He heard the leaves rustling in the wind. He heard a shepherd playing his pipe on a green hill in the distance. But he heard no voice again, and he soon went away.

Rhœcus was a good and faithful young man, but he was very forgetful. He loved fun and pleasure too much. If he found a new pleasure, he gave all his time to it and forgot about everything else. In the afternoon he met some young men playing at dice. He played with them and forgot all about the beautiful Dryad.

Rhœcus and the young men were very merry. They laughed and talked loudly. They played with the dice and gambled for money. Rhœcus lost much of his money and was sad. He threw

the dice again, and, this time, he gained much money. Then he was glad and laughed.

A yellow bee now flew into the room. It hung down its legs and buzzed around his head, as bees do when they alight on a flower. Rhœcus was excited with gambling, and his face was hot and red. He said: "You foolish bee! do you think I am a rose?" He then crossly and rudely struck at the bee with his hand. The bee came to him again, and he again drove it away. For the third time, the bee came to him and Rhœcus, becoming very angry, again struck it with his hand. He hurt the bee. The wounded bee then flew out of the window. While Rhœcus was watching the bee go out of the window, he saw a high mountain in the west. He saw the great, red sun going down behind the mountain. Then he remembered the Dryad. Suddenly his heart seemed to stop beating and become very still. He was grieved and unhappy.

He said not a word to his friends, but got up from the table, and turning away from the young men, ran out of the door. Like a madman, he ran through the streets and through the gate of the city. He ran swiftly on the level plain. The sun was low and the shadows of the woods were long. They covered the plain from the woods almost to the walls of the city.

At last, Rhœcus came to the old oak tree. He was very warm and tired, and was panting hard. He stood there trembling and listened. He heard the gentle voice of the Dryad, saying: "Rhœcus!" It sounded near him. He looked carefully around him, but he could not see the beautiful woman. He saw only the dark shadows under the oak. Again he heard the voice. It was very sad, and said: "O, Rhœcus! you will never again see me by day or by night. I wanted to give you my love. I wanted to make you happier than any man had ever been. But you scorned my humble messenger. I sent the yellow bee to call you. You wounded him and sent him back to me with bruised wings. The spirits of the trees appear only to the gentle and kind. We always ask for an undivided love. He who scorns the smallest of the beautiful things in this world, ever after loses the enjoyment of all. Farewell! You can never see me again."

THE TWELVE LABORS OF HERCULES.

A LONG time ago there lived a prince whose name was Hercules. When he was a baby in the cradle, he crushed two huge snakes to death. When he grew up, he was very brave and strong. He performed many heroic and wonderful deeds. His cousin, Eurystheus, was king of Argos. Eurystheus knew Hercules was much admired by the people, and he was afraid Hercules would take Argos from him and make himself king. So Eurystheus plotted to destroy him. He gave him twelve tasks to perform. He thought Hercules would be killed before he had finished his work. These tasks were called his twelve labors.

One day Hercules came to Eurystheus, covered with the skin of a lion he had killed, and carrying a club made of a forest tree in his hand. Eurystheus bade him go and kill a lion which lived in the valley of Nemea. This lion had a skin which could not be pierced. Eurystheus thought the lion would kill him. Hercules tried to kill this lion with his club, but he could not do it. So he caught it in his arms and strangled it to death. The lion had bitten off one of his fingers, but Hercules did not mind that. After he had killed the lion, he lifted the dead body on his back and carried it to his cousin. Eurystheus was very much frightened when he saw the dead lion. He ran away and hid himself. He commanded Hercules not to bring any more monsters into the city.

His second labor was to destroy a monstrous seven-headed serpent, which lived in a lake called Lerna. The people were much afraid of this serpent. Hercules struck off several of its heads with his club, but the heads grew on again as fast as he struck them off. At last he asked one of his friends to help him, and his friend consented. Hercules told him that when he cut off the serpent's heads, he must sear its necks with a red hot iron. This his friend did, and the heads did not grow on again. In this way Hercules soon destroyed the serpent.

His third labor was the chasing of the Arcadian stag. This stag had golden horns and brazen hoofs, and could run so swiftly that no one could catch it. Hercules hunted it for a whole year, and he finally caught it.

His fourth labor was to catch alive a horrid wild boar on Mount Erymanthus. He followed the boar through a deep swamp, caught it in a net, and took it alive to Mycenæ.

The king of Elis had a stable in which he had kept three hundred cattle for thirty years, and the stable had become very dirty and nobody could clean it out. He promised to give Hercules one-tenth of his cattle, if he would clean out this stable. Hercules agreed to clean it. He dug a canal and turned the water of two rivers into the stable. This cleaned the stable very nicely. The king was pleased, and praised Hercules. The cleaning of the stable was his fifth labor.

Eurystheus told Hercules that there were some horrible birds, with brazen beaks and claws, and arrows for feathers, in the woods near lake Stymphalis. These birds ate human flesh. He ordered Hercules to drive all these birds out of the woods. Pallas lent Hercules a brazen clapper, which frightened the birds very much, and they rose out of the forest. Hercules had a number of poisoned arrows. He shot at and killed a great many of the birds with these arrows, and he drove the rest away. This was his sixth labor.

There was a beautiful white bull in Crete which belonged to the king of Crete. It went mad, and did much damage in Crete. Everybody was afraid of it because it was very ferocious. Eurystheus sent Hercules to bring this bull to Mycenæ. Hercules captured it, and, when he had subdued it, brought it to Mycenæ on his shoulders. He showed it to his cousin, and then let it loose again to run about Greece. His seventh labor was now accomplished.

His eighth labor was a more difficult one. Diomedes, King of Thrace, had a number of mares which were fed on man's flesh. Hercules was sent to take these mares from Diomedes. A number of men took care of them. These men were called grooms. Hercules overcame the grooms, and took the mares away with him. Diomedes followed him with a number of soldiers. Hercules told a friend to take care of the mares while he fought with Diomedes. When the battle was over and Diomedes was killed, Hercules went to get the mares from his friend. He found that they had eaten

up his friend. He then took the dead body of Diomedes, and gave it to the mares to eat. They then became very quiet, and he brought them home with him.

Hercules was next sent to a country on the Black Sea. The people of this country were called Amazons. The warriors were not men but women. Wives fought for their husbands and their homes, instead of the husbands doing the fighting. The queen of the Amazons was named Hippolyta. She was the bravest woman in the country. The god Mars had given her a belt, because she was so brave. Eurystheus' daughter wanted this belt. Hercules was sent to bring it to her. Hercules talked very entertainingly to Hippolyta. She liked Hercules very much, and promised to give him her belt. The goddess Juno, who was very treacherous, made the Amazon women believe that Hercules meant to carry off Hippolyta. So they mounted their horses and went to rescue her. Hercules saw them coming. He thought Hippolyta was treacherous and had told these women to kill him. There was a great fight. During the fight Hercules killed Hippolyta. He was victorious and took Hippolyta's belt from her dead body and carried it to Eurystheus. His ninth labor was now finished.

He was next sent to the west. A giant named Geryon lived in the isle of Erytharia, in the middle of the ocean. This giant had three bodies. He owned great herds of purple oxen. The oxen were guarded by a two-headed dog. Hercules was sent to bring these oxen to Eurystheus. He travelled until he came to the straits of Gibraltar. The rays of the sun were very hot and scorched him. He became very angry and shot at the sun with his arrows. Helios, the sun-god, was not angry at Hercules. He admired him because he was bold. He gave him his golden cup in which to cross the ocean to the isle of Erytharia. This cup was large enough to hold all the herd of purple oxen. Hercules reached the isle, and killed the dog, the herdsman, and the giant. Then he drove the herd of purple oxen into the cup, and returned to the straits of Gibraltar. He gave the golden cup back to Helios, and took the oxen to Eurystheus. They were sacrificed to Eurystheus' friend, the goddess Juno. This was his tenth labor.

Eurystheus again sent Hercules far away. In the land of Hesperus, there was a beautiful garden. In this garden there was a golden tree, covered with golden apples. It was guarded by the daughter of the god Atlas, and a dragon. Eurystheus told Hercules to bring these golden apples to him. Hercules started to go to the garden of the Hesperides. He met a dreadful giant named Antæus. Every time Hercules threw the giant to the ground, the giant would rise and become stronger. Finally Hercules lifted him up in his arms and squeezed him to death. By-and-by, Hercules reached Mount Caucasus. Here he found Prometheus, the Titan, chained to a large rock. Prometheus was good and he had been kind to men. Seeing that men had no fire with which to warm themselves, he stole fire from heaven and gave it to them. Jupiter was very angry at Prometheus, because he had stolen the fire and had given it to men. He chained Prometheus to this rock on Mount Caucasus. Then he sent an eagle to torment him. The eagle would rend Prometheus' sides and tear out his liver as fast as it grew. When Hercules came, he shot the eagle with an arrow, and then set Prometheus free. Prometheus was very grateful to Hercules. He said he would go with Hercules to get the golden apples. He gave Hercules much good advice. The god Atlas always held the earth on his shoulders. Hercules went to Atlas and asked him if he would go and get the golden apples for him from his daughter. Atlas said he would go if Hercules would hold the earth until he returned. Hercules said he would hold it, and he took the earth on his shoulders. Atlas went to the garden and got the apples from his daughter, and soon returned with them. But he would not give them to Hercules. He said he would carry them to Eurystheus himself. He said he was very tired holding up the earth, and he told Hercules that he must continue to hold the earth. Prometheus told Hercules to say to Atlas that he must first have a pad for his head, because the earth hurt it. Hercules told Atlas this, and Atlas said he would hold the earth while Hercules put the pad on his head. He took the earth from Hercules. Hercules did not mean to hold the earth again, and he did not put a pad on his head. He picked up the apples and started off with them.

He left old Atlas holding the earth on his shoulders. He took the apples to Eurystheus. This was his eleventh labor.

He had now one more labor to perform. The doors of Hades were guarded by a three-headed dog named Cerberus. Hercules was sent to bring this dog and show it to Eurystheus. The god Mercury and the goddess Pallas went with him. At last he reached the throne of Pluto. Pluto was lord of the spirits of the dead. Hercules asked permission to take Cerberus and show him to Eurystheus. Pluto said he might take Cerberus, but he must not hurt him. Hercules was covered with a lion's skin. He caught hold of Cerberus and dragged him to the light. He showed him to Eurystheus. Then he gave him back to Pluto. All his twelve labors were now accomplished.

Hercules had married a lady named Dejanira. On the way home, they had to cross a river. A Centaur named Nessus lived near. Nessus had a body like a horse, but a head and arms like a man. He earned his living by carrying people across the river on his back. Hercules could walk across the river, but Dejanira could not. So he hired Nessus to take her across on his back. But Nessus was very treacherous. As soon as he crossed the river, he started to run away with Dejanira. Hercules shot him with a poisoned arrow. Nessus was very revengeful, and he vowed he would be revenged on Hercules. The poison from the arrow killed him. But while he was dying, he told Dejanira that his blood was full of love for her. He told her to keep some of the blood. He said that if Hercules ever ceased to love her, to put some of this on his garment, and he would soon love her again. Dejanira believed him. She kept some of his blood, but she did not tell Hercules about it.

Several years after, Hercules went to Lydia to fight against the people. He gained a victory, and captured a beautiful girl named Iole. He was very happy because he had gained the victory. He was going to make a great sacrifice to the god Jupiter. He sent home to Dejanira for a nice garment to wear. Dejanira thought that he loved Iole, and wished to please her. She was very jealous of Iole. She remembered what Nessus had told her,

and she put some of his blood on the garment for Hercules and sent it to him. This blood was poisonous. Hercules did not know the poisonous blood was on the robe, and put it on. Soon he began to feel much pain all over his body. He tried to tear off the robe, but his skin and flesh came off with it. He knew his blood was poisoned, and he went home to die. When Dejanira saw him, she was exceedingly grieved. She knew she had killed Hercules with the blood of Nessus. She hung herself for grief.

Hercules told his oldest son, Hylas, to take care of Iole, and when they grew older, to marry her. Hylas said he would do it. Hercules gave his arrows to his friend Philoctetes. He tore up a number of trees, and made a funeral pile. He laid himself on it. Then he asked some of his friends to set fire to it. None of them would do it. At last a shepherd set fire to it, and his body was soon burned to ashes. No one ever knew where his ashes were buried.

JOSEPH AND HIS BRETHREN.

THERE lived in Canaan a man named Jacob. Jacob had twelve sons. The youngest son was called Joseph. Jacob loved his youngest son best. Joseph's brothers were very jealous of him. One night Joseph had a dream. He thought he saw the sun, moon, and stars bow down to him. Once before he dreamed that he and his brothers were in the harvest field, binding sheaves of corn. He thought their sheaves bowed down to his sheaves. He told his father and brothers about these dreams. His brothers said: "Shalt thou reign over us?" They began to hate Joseph because of these dreams. Joseph's father reproved him for telling these visions.

One day Joseph's father sent him to the field with a kind message to his brothers. When they saw Joseph coming, they plotted to kill him. But Reuben, the eldest brother, was very good. He would not let them kill Joseph. He said: "Do not kill him, but put him into this deep, dry pit in the wilderness." Reu-

ben wanted to save Joseph. He did not mean to let him stay in the pit. He meant to come back to the pit when his brothers were away, and take him out. The other brothers agreed to put Joseph in the pit.

Joseph begged them not to put him down into the dark pit, but they would not listen to him. They took his coat of many colors which he wore from him, and lowered him into the pit. They thought he would die there. Reuben then went away.

While he was away, some merchants passed by. These merchants were going to Egypt. They had many camels loaded with spices and myrrh. Joseph's brothers concluded to take Joseph out of the pit and sell him to these merchants. So they drew him out of the pit and sold him to the merchants for twenty pieces of silver. Joseph was taken to Egypt and sold for a slave. When Reuben returned, he was very sorry because Joseph was sold.

Then the ten wicked brothers took Joseph's pretty coat and dipped it in the blood of a kid. They took it to their father, and said: "We have found this coat. Is it your son Joseph's?" Jacob began to weep, and said: "It is my son's coat. A wild beast has destroyed him. He is dead." He was very fond of Joseph, and grieved very much for him.

Joseph was now a slave in Egypt. His master's name was Potiphar. Potiphar was very kind to him, because he was honest and good. But Potiphar had a wicked wife. She wanted to make Joseph deceive his kind master. Joseph feared God and would do nothing wrong. He knew God could always see him. Potiphar's wife became very angry with Joseph, because he would not deceive his master. She told Potiphar that Joseph was very wicked, and ought to be punished. Potiphar believed her, and sent Joseph away to prison. But God knew that Joseph was good, and made the keeper of the prison kind to him.

The keeper let Joseph help him to take care of the other prisoners. King Pharaoh's butler and baker were in prison. One morning these men were very sad. Joseph saw them, and asked them what the matter was. They told Joseph they had had strange dreams. They told their dreams to Joseph. God taught Joseph how to explain their dreams. Joseph told the baker that

he would be hanged, and he told the butler that Pharaoh would make him his servant again. Soon after these things really happened.

By-and-by Pharaoh had a dream. He dreamed that he saw seven fat cows feeding in a meadow, and seven thin cows came and ate them up. He slept again, and dreamed the second time. In his dream, he saw seven bad ears of corn eat up seven good ears of corn. He wished very much to know what his dream meant. One of his servants said: "There is a young man in prison who can tell the King what his dream means."

The King sent for Joseph. Joseph said: "There will be seven good harvests; and then, for seven years no corn will grow, and there will be no bread to eat." The King said: "What will we do?" Joseph said: "Buy up all the corn, and save it until the famine." King Pharaoh made Joseph ruler over all the land. He put his ring on Joseph's finger, and a gold chain around his neck. He told Joseph to buy up the corn. Joseph obeyed him and bought up the corn and saved it. When the bad harvests came, he sold the corn that had been saved to the people.

At this time there was a famine in Canaan, and Jacob and his sons had nothing to eat. Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy corn. They went to Joseph to get the corn. They did not know Joseph, but Joseph knew them. He pretended to be unkind to them, and asked them many questions. Then he put Simeon in prison. He told his other brothers Simeon should not be set free until they brought their brother Benjamin, who had been left in Canaan with the old father, to him. He filled their sacks with corn, and his brothers paid him for it. Joseph took the money, but he did not keep it. He put it in the sacks on top of the corn. His brothers did not know this. He gave the sacks of corn to them, and they returned to their home.

When they reached home, they found the money in their sacks. They were very much surprised. They told their father what the governor of Egypt had said. Jacob did not like to let Benjamin go to Egypt, for he loved him dearly, and he was afraid some harm would come to him. But at last they had no bread to eat, and he had to send him with his brothers.

When Joseph saw Benjamin, he cried for joy, for he too loved Benjamin dearly. He kissed Benjamin. He then told his brothers that he was their brother Joseph. They were greatly astonished. He made a great feast for them. Although they had been very cruel to him, he forgave them, and treated them kindly. He told them to go home and tell his father that he was alive and in Egypt. He sent for his father to come to Egypt.

His brothers hastened back to Canaan to tell their father. They went straight to their father and told him Joseph was alive and governor of Egypt. They said Joseph wanted him to go to Egypt at once.

Jacob made haste to go to see his son. Joseph went to meet his father in the land of Goshen. When he saw his father, he fell on his neck and wept. Jacob thanked God for letting him see Joseph again.

Pharaoh, the King, wished to see Joseph's father. Joseph conducted his father to the King. Jacob blessed King Pharaoh because he had been very good to his son Joseph. Pharaoh gave the land of Goshen to Joseph for his family to dwell in. Joseph took good care of his father until he died. He was very kind to his brothers, and they learned to love him dearly.

ANDROCLES AND THE LION.

Many years ago there was a man named Androcles. Androcles lived in Africa. He was a slave. He had to work very hard all day for another man. His master was very cruel and often beat Androcles, and did not give him enough to eat. Androcles became very sad. He did not like to be a slave and work for another man. He wanted to be free and work for himself. At last, Androcles ran away from his master. He was afraid his master would follow him, and take him back to work again. So he fled to a dark forest to hide. Androcles wandered about in the forest to find fruits to eat. He was almost starved. There were many fierce lions living in this forest.

One day Androcles heard a lion roar very near him. He was greatly frightened. He had no sword, and he had no knife. He had not even a stick to fight with the lion. He thought he would run away. Then he saw a large, fierce, black lion coming toward him. He did not know what to do. He felt sure the lion would tear him to pieces. He stood still and waited. The lion walked

ANDROCLES SAW THAT THE PAW WAS BLEEDING

up to Androcles. Androcles trembled, but the lion did not kill him or bite him. The lion lay down before Androcles like a dog. It wagged its tail, and looked up into Androcles' face. It seemed to want something.

Androcles was very much surprised. He thought the lion acted very strange. He wondered what made the lion so tame. While Androcles was looking at the lion, it held up one of its paws. Androcles saw that the paw was bleeding. He stooped

down and took hold of the paw and examined it. He found a large thorn sticking in it. He pulled the thorn out, and took a cloth and bound up the wounded paw so no dirt could get into the wound. The lion was very grateful to Androcles. It licked his hands; then it went away. In a little while, the lion returned to Androcles. It brought a piece of fresh meat in its mouth. It laid down the meat at Androcles' feet. Androcles ate the meat, and thus he was saved from starving to death. At last, Androcles got out of the forest, and returned to his friends at home.

Many years ago the people in Rome were very cruel, and they had strange and wicked amusements. They had a place called the Amphitheatre. The Amphitheatre was a large, round building. Many rows of seats, one above the other, were arranged around the wall in this building. There was an open place in the middle of the Amphitheatre called the arena. There was a high fence or wall around the arena. Slaves were often forced to fight with wild animals in the arena of the Amphitheatre. Often, too, men who had offended the king or his friends, had to fight in the arena.

Androcles had been at home a short time. Then some of his enemies told bad stories about him. Androcles was examined, and he was condemned to fight with a lion in the arena of the Amphitheatre. If Androcles should kill the lion, his enemies would let him live. But they all thought that the lion would kill him in a very short time. Everybody went to see the fight in the Amphitheatre. Poor people and rich people, young people and old people went there. All loved to see slaves and brave men torn to pieces by the wild beasts. On the day that Androcles was to fight with the lion, the Amphitheatre was crowded with people. A large, black lion had been caught. No food had been given to the lion for a day or two. That had made the lion very ferocious. When all was ready, poor Androcles was placed in the arena. Then the hungry lion was let loose upon him. As soon as the lion saw Androcles, it roared terribly. It rushed toward him; but when it came close to him, it stopped and stood still. All the people thought the lion would tear Androcles to pieces, but the lion did not do so. It lay down at his feet and licked his hands. It seemed

to be much pleased, and would not hurt him. The people were very much surprised, and they wondered why the lion did not hurt Androcles.

Androcles recognized the lion and he knew it was the same lion he had met in the forest in Africa. The lion remembered Androcles too, and so did not hurt him. Androcles told the people how he had met the lion in the forest and pulled the thorn out of its paw. The people were delighted. They were glad, because the lion was so grateful to Androcles. Then the people all said that Androcles should be pardoned. So Androcles escaped with his life. Androcles and the lion were always good friends after that.

This story shows what kindness will do. Be kind to animals, and they will be grateful to you, and will often help you.

CADMUS AND EUROPA.

In a beautiful valley in Phœnicia, a long time ago, two children, named Cadmus and Europa, lived with their mother, Telephassa. They were good and happy children. They were very full of fun. They lived in a lovely place. There were all kinds of beautiful trees which were covered with fruits and flowers. The oranges looked like gold among the dark leaves. Great bunches of dates hung from the tall palm trees, and everything smelled fresh and sweet.

The children were well pleased with their beautiful home. They played in their garden every day. One day they were playing in a field by the side of the river. A beautiful white bull came into the field. He was as white as snow. There was not one dark spot on his body. He came and lay down on the green grass and remained there very still and quiet. At first the children were afraid of him. When they saw that he was so still and quiet, they went closer to him. The bull did not move, but looked at the children as if he wanted them to come and play with him.

At last they came near to the bull. Cadmus thought he would be very brave. He put out his hand and patted the bull on his

side. The bull only made a soft sound to show the children he was glad. Europa saw that the bull did not hurt Cadmus. So she thought he would not hurt her. She put out her hand and stroked the bull's face. She caught hold of his white horn. The bull rubbed his face gently against her dress. By-and-by Cadmus thought he would like to take a ride on the bull's back. He jumped on, and the bull rose from the ground, and went slowly around the field with Cadmus on his back. Cadmus was frightened a little at first. But the bull was so quiet and gentle that he was not afraid long. They played with the bull until the sun set. Then they hastened back home.

When they reached the house, they ran quickly to Telephassa. They told her about playing with the white bull. Telephassa was glad, because they had been so happy playing with the bull.

The next day the bull came again. When Europa got on his back, he began to trot quickly away. Cadmus thought the bull was only trotting away for fun. He ran after him and cried out to make him stop. But the bull only ran faster, and would not stop. Cadmus now knew that the bull was running away with his sister Europa. The bull ran along the bank of the river and up a steep hill, then down into the valley on the other side of the hill and along the plain. Cadmus watched him until he was out of sight. He did not run after him, for he knew he could not catch him. He was very sad when his sister was thus taken away from him. His eyes were full of tears, and he could hardly see. He looked and looked to see if the bull would return with his sister. At last it became dark, and Cadmus knew the bull would not return. He began to cry bitterly. He was afraid to go home and tell his mother about Europa. But he knew he ought to tell her. He went home slowly and sadly. When Telephassa saw him coming alone, she was frightened. She thought Europa had been hurt. Cadmus told her the bull had run away with Europa on his back. Telephassa asked him where he had gone. Cadmus said he did not know, but that the bull had run away towards the West.

Telephassa said: "We must get up early in the morning. We will go toward the land of the West, and see if we can find

Europa." They slept very little that night. In the morning their cheeks were pale and wet with tears. It was very early in the morning when they started. They went far away. They travelled along valleys and over hills. They crossed rivers and passed through woods. They asked every one whom they met if they had seen a white bull with a girl upon its back. No one had seen the bull. Many people thought they were silly, because they asked this question. They said: "Girls do not ride on the backs of bulls. I think you are only fooling us."

Telephassa and Cadmus went on and on. They asked many people about her, but no one had seen her. Sometimes they saw high mountains with their tops covered with snow. Sometimes they rested on the banks of a broad river. Sometimes they saw great waterfalls. Cadmus would look at his mother and say: "We would like to stay here, if Europa were with us. But we do not care to stay now. We must go on in search of her."

They went on until they reached the sea. They did not know how to get across, for it was very wide. They found a place where the sea was narrow. A boatman took them across in his boat. It was the place where Helle was drowned when she fell from the back of the ram that was carrying her and her brother to Colchis.

Telephassa and Cadmus crossed the Hellespont. They went on and on. They crossed mountains, hills, and rocks, till they came to the plains of Thessaly. They asked every one about Europa, but no one had seen her. Cadmus noticed that his mother was getting weak and thin. She could not walk as far and as fast as she did when they started from home. Cadmus asked her to rest for a while, but she would not do it. She said: "We must go on until we find Europa."

They went on until Telephassa could walk no further. She said to Cadmus: "I am very tired, and I can walk no further. I must lie down and sleep for a while. If I die while I am asleep, you must go on by yourself and look for Europa. I am sure you will find her some day. When you see your sister, tell her I loved her always, and would like to have seen her again very much. If I die, I hope to meet you both in heaven."

Telephassa fell asleep. All night Cadmus watched by her side. When morning came, he saw that she was dead. Her face was quite still, and had a happy smile on it. Cadmus was very sorry to be parted from his mother. Still he was glad she could not feel tired or sad any more.

Cadmus buried his mother, and soon all kinds of flowers grew upon her grave.

Cadmus now went on in search of his sister. He met a shepherd who was leading his flock of sheep. The shepherd was very beautiful. His face was almost as bright as the sun. He had a golden harp and a golden bow, and arrows in a golden quiver. His name was Phœbus Apollo. Cadmus went up to him and said: "Have you seen my sister Europa? A white bull ran away with her on his back. Can you tell me where I can find her?"

Phœbus Apollo said: "I have seen your sister, but I do not know where she is now. Go on till you reach a town called Delphi. It is at the foot of a great mountain named Parnassus. You may find out where she is when you reach this place. When you have seen her, you must not stay there. I wish you to build a city, to become a king, and to be wise and strong and good. You and Europa will see a beautiful cow. Follow this cow until it lies down on the ground. Then in that place build a city."

Cadmus went on until he reached Delphi. He saw a beautiful temple with white marble pillars. Cadmus went into the temple. He saw his sister Europa. He was very much surprised and very happy at finding her. Europa told Cadmus the story of how the bull had brought her and left her there a long time ago. She said she had been very sorry she could not let her mother know where she was. She told Cadmus he looked very thin and weak. Then she asked him when she would see her dear mother. Cadmus told her that their mother was dead. He told her how they had started out to find her, and said their mother had died on the way. He said: "She told me I must tell you that she wanted very much to see you. She said she wished to meet us both in heaven. I buried our mother, and then came on in search of you. On the way, I met a shepherd named Phœbus Apollo. He had a golden harp and

a golden bow. His face shone like the sun. He told me we must follow a beautiful cow which he would send. He said I must build a city in the place where the cow shall lie down."

Europa and her brother Cadmus left Delphi. When they had gone a short distance, they saw a cow lying on the grass. When they got near, the cow got up and began to walk in front of them. They knew it was the cow which Phœbus Apollo had sent. They followed the cow. It walked a long way. At last it lay down to rest in the midst of a large plain. Cadmus knew it was the place where he must build the city. He built a great many houses, and the city was called Thebes. Cadmus became the king of Thebes, and his sister Europa lived with him. He was a wise and good king, for he ruled his people justly and kindly. By-and-by Cadmus and Europa died, and went to heaven, where they saw their mother. They were never parted from her again.

CHEVALIER BAYARD.

When the cruel Louis XI was king of France, there lived at a place called Grenoble, in the south of France, a gentleman named Bayard. He had four sons. This gentleman knew he was growing old, and he knew he would soon die and leave his sons alone in the world. One day he called them all to him. He told them he should not live long, and he wanted to know what each one would do when he was dead.

The three oldest brothers said they did not wish to leave home. They did not care to travel. They said they would live quietly and peaceably at home.

The youngest brother was named Pierre. Pierre said he did not wish to stay at home. He said he wished to be pure and brave, but that he also wanted men to respect and honor him.

The old man was very glad when he heard Pierre say this. He promised to help Pierre all that he could to win honor and fame.

Pierre looked very much like his grandfather. His grandfather had been a brave Knight. Pierre tried to be like his grandfather, because his grandfather had been noble and good, and he admired him.

Pierre's father invited a number of Knights to a banquet. He told them what his four sons had said. He asked them where they thought would be the best place to send Pierre. He wished Pierre to be trained to be a brave Knight like his grandfather. Pierre's uncle, the Bishop of Grenoble, told Pierre's father to send him to the court of the Duke of Savoy. He promised to buy all the things Pierre needed, if his father would send him to the Duke.

Pierre's father accepted the Bishop's advice and offer. Pierre and his uncle soon started for the Duke's palace. When the Duke saw Pierre, he admired him very much. Pierre was a handsome young man. The Duke asked the Bishop of Grenoble what the boy's name was. The Bishop told him his name and all about him. The Duke of Savoy at once agreed to take him into his court. Pierre lived with the Duke's family. He was taught all the things he wished to know. He learned to manage his horse with skill, to wield a sword and battle-axe, and to fight in tournaments. In those days tournaments were very frequent. The Knights engaged in mimic warfare to please the kings and fair ladies. They also wished to become expert in the use of arms.

Pierre did not stay long with the Duke of Savoy. The cruel king Louis died, and his son, Charles VIII, became King. Charles VIII was very good and kind to everybody. The Duke said he would introduce Pierre to the new King. Pierre dressed himself with much care, and he told his groom to make his horse look very nice. Pierre rode his horse to the palace of Charles VIII. When the King saw him, he was much pleased with him. After that Pierre Bayard became the champion of the King. He went with Charles VIII into Italy. Here he became a great warrior, and he was much praised for his bravery at the battle of Verona.

Louis XII was the next King. While fighting against King Ludovic in a battle near Milan, Bayard was taken prisoner. He had ridden into the enemy's ranks, and he thought the other

soldiers were following him. The others knew they would be taken prisoners if they followed Bayard, and they had retreated, and left Bayard alone. King Ludovic's soldiers surrounded him and took him prisoner. He was taken before King Ludovic.

The King asked Bayard why he had come into the battle without the other soldiers. Bayard told the King that he thought his companions were behind, following him. He said he felt disgraced, but he was thankful he was the prisoner of an honorable King.

King Ludovic was pleased with Bayard, because he was such a brave, faithful soldier. He set Bayard free. He told him to ask anything he wished, and, if he could, he would grant it.

Bayard knelt and thanked King Ludovic. He said: "Please restore me my horse and arms, and let some one guide me to the garrison, twenty miles distant."

Before long, Bayard was again with his soldiers. He was loved by his friends and was respected and admired by his enemies. He never refused to help any one, and he was never unjust or cruel.

Bayard lost his life finally while fighting in Italy. During a battle on the Tessino river, he received a fatal wound. He knew he could not live, and he asked some of the soldiers to place him under a tree, with his face to the enemy. His sword was fixed like a cross before him. Before he died, he sent a message to his King. The message was: "I die your servant; I am only sorry I cannot serve you longer." Bayard had been a brave soldier, and his companions were much grieved when he died.

"Conversation makes a ready man; reading, a full man; writing, an exact man."

"The way to be truly honored is to be truly good."

Better three hours too soon than one minute too late.

Order and method make all things easy.

THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN.

In Germany there was a town named Hamelin. On the south side of Hamelin flowed the wide and deep river Weser. It was a very pretty place. About five hundred years ago the people were in great trouble. The town was full of rats, and the people could not get rid of them.

The rats were very bold. They fought the dogs and killed the cats. They bit the little babies in the cradles. They licked the soup in the cooks' ladles. They gnawed and split open the kegs of salted fish. They made their nests in men's nice Sunday hats. When the women were speaking, the rats were very noisy. The women could not hear each other, the rats squeaked and yelled so loudly all the time.

At last, the people had a meeting in the Town Hall to talk about the rats and how to destroy them. The people said: "We know that our Mayor is a fool, and our Councilmen are idiots. We buy them fine gowns trimmed with ermine, and we pay them much money. But our stupid Councilmen are too lazy, or do not know how to destroy the rats." When the Mayor and the Councilmen heard this, they were very much frightened.

The Mayor and the Councilmen sat together for one hour, thinking how they could get rid of the rats. At last the Mayor spoke. He said: "I will sell my pretty ermine gown for a dollar. I wish I were miles away from Hamelin. It is very easy to tell one to think. I am sure my poor head aches from thinking. I have scratched my head many times, but I cannot think how to destroy the rats. O, I wish we had a great trap to kill all these dreadful rats."

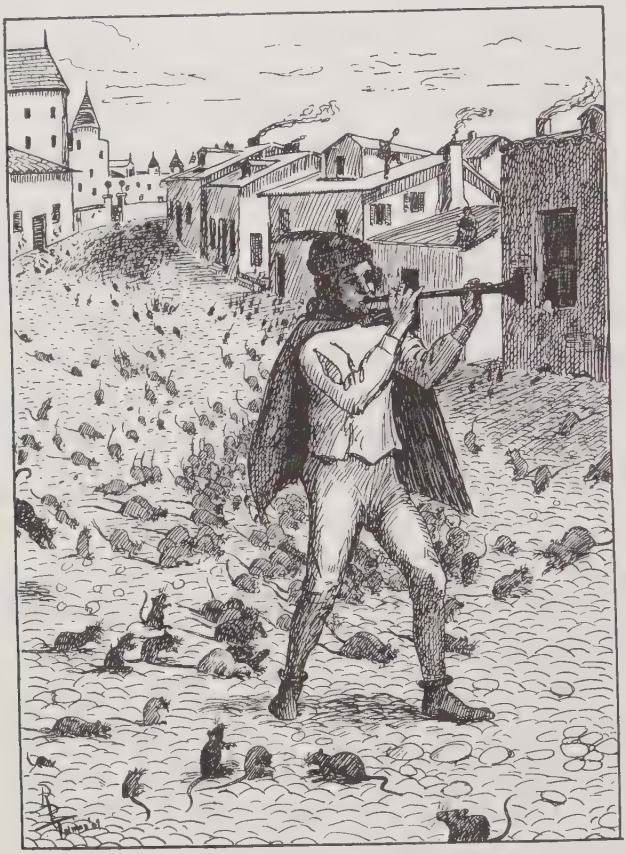
When the Mayor said this, there was a gentle knock at the door. The Mayor said: "What is that?" Then he looked wise and said: "Come in." Then all looked at the door. When the door opened, a little man came into the room. He walked to the table where the Mayor and Councilmen were sitting. He was a very queer looking little man, for he had on a coat of many colors. He said: "Gentlemen, I have a wonderful charm. With this, I

can make every living thing under the sun follow me. All things that creep or run on the land, or swim in the water, or fly in the air, will follow me. You never before saw anything so wonderful. You see I am only a poor piper. Last summer I was in Tartary. The King was in great trouble, for millions of gnats tormented him and his people. I destroyed all those gnats. Then I went to India to see the King. The King and his people were in trouble too. There were many bats in the country. The bats were very large and fierce, and they drank the blood of people, and everybody was afraid of them. With my wonderful charm, I killed all these bats. The King was very thankful and gave me great riches. Now I see you are in great trouble about the rats in Hamelin. Now I can help you. Will you give me a thousand dollars if I kill all the rats in the town?" The Mayor and the Councilmen were astonished. They said to the piper: "Will we give you a thousand dollars? Yes; we will give you fifty thousand dollars!"

The piper then walked out into the street smiling. He knew there was a magic charm in his little pipe. He took his pipe from his pocket and put it to his lips. He pursed his lips to blow the pipe. His sharp little eyes were green and blue, and now they twinkled like a candle flame when you put salt in it. He blew on his pipe and made most wonderful and sweet music. Before he blew three times on his pipe, the people heard a great noise. It sounded like a great army of angry soldiers muttering. Then the noise sounded like a great grumbling. The noise became louder and louder and then sounded like the thunder rumbling. Then out of all the houses the rats came running. There were great rats, small rats, lean rats, and brawny rats. There were brown rats, black rats, gray rats, and tawny rats. There were quiet and grave old rats. There were gay and mischievous young rats. Fathers, mothers, uncles, and cousins of all the rat families were there. They held their tails straight like rods, and pricked their whiskers. Families of rats in tens, and families of rats in dozens, all followed the piper. Brothers, sisters, husbands, and wives all followed him. A million rats followed him. The piper walked on from street to street. The rats, all dancing and laughing, fol-

lowed him. At last the piper came to the river Weser. Then all the rats ran into the water and were drowned. A million of rats died. Only one rat was saved. This was a very great and strong old rat, and he swam across the river and escaped.

He was a very wise old rat. He wrote a little book about the pied piper for the rats of other lands to read. This is what the wise old rat said in his book:



A MILLION RATS FOLLOWED HIM

"When the piper blew his pipe, I heard a sound like a knife scraping fish. It sounded like crushing nice, sweet, ripe apples in a cider-press. It was like the sound a woman makes in moving the boards that cover a tub full of pickles. It was like the sound of doors opening in a cupboard full of jam and jelly and other sweet things. It was like the music made in pulling corks out of

bottles of train-oil. It sounded like the breaking of the hoops of a butter cask. I thought I heard a sweet voice singing and saying: 'O! rats, be glad and happy. The world is become one great pantry for you. So gnaw and eat and take your fill of good things. Take your breakfast, dinner, and supper.' Then I saw a great sugar barrel. It shone like a great sun before my eyes. It was only an inch before my nose and seemed to say: 'Come, gnaw a hole in me and eat me.' I smelled the sugar, and then suddenly I found myself drowning in the waters of the Weser river."

The people of Hamelin were delighted. They rung the bells in the churches. They rung them so wildly that they almost shook down the steeples. The Mayor now said to the people: "Go and get long poles. Poke them in the nests, and stop up all the rat holes. Talk with the carpenters and builders. Do not leave one rat alive in the town." Suddenly the Mayor stopped talking, for he saw the face of the piper in the market place. The piper said: "If you please, Mr. Mayor, first pay me my thousand dollars."

Now the Mayor and the Councilmen were very stingy and mean. When they heard the piper ask for his thousand dollars, they all looked sober. They had spent the town's money in eating good dinners and drinking rich wines, and they thought a thousand dollars too much for a poor piper dressed in a red and yellow coat. They knew that half the money would buy enough of the best wine to fill the largest barrel in the cellar. The Mayor thought he would be smart and cheat the poor piper. So he winked at the piper, and said: "We have seen the rats all drowned in the river. The dead rats cannot live again to trouble us. I will give you something to buy drink, and a little money to put in your pocket. When we said we would give you a thousand dollars, we were only in fun. We have spent a great deal of money and must be careful. We cannot give you a thousand dollars, but we will give you fifty."

When the piper heard this, he looked very sober. He said: "You must not fool with me. I cannot wait. I have promised to

be in Bagdad by dinner-time. The cook in the King's kitchen will give me a good dinner and plenty of money. There was a nest of scorpions in the King's kitchen, and I killed them all. The cook will pay me to-day. He was not stingy, and I will not take a cent less than my thousand dollars from you. If you people make me angry, I will give you music you will not like."

The Mayor was very angry at hearing this, and said: "Do you think I will let a lazy piper, in a dirty red and yellow coat insult me? Do you think I am no better than a cook? Do you threaten me? Do your worst. Blow your pipe and burst yourself!"

Then the piper walked into the street. He put his long pipe to his lips. He blew his pipe and made very wonderful and sweet music. Then there was a great rustling noise. It sounded like merry children playing and pushing. Small feet were pattering. Wooden shoes were clattering. Little hands were clapping, and little tongues chattering. All the little children in Hamelin came running out. They ran out like chickens in a barn-yard, when a woman scatters corn for them. All the little boys and girls came out. They had rosy cheeks and yellow hair. Their eyes were bright and their teeth were white. They were very merry. Laughing, dancing, and running, they followed the piper.

The Mayor was astonished. He could not speak a word. The Councilmen all stood still like blocks of wood. They could not move or speak to the children, laughing and dancing past them. They could only watch the merry and glad children following the piper. The Mayor and the Councilmen were much alarmed. They saw the piper walking towards the river, followed by their sons and daughters. They thought he was going to drown the children as he had drowned the rats. But when the piper came to the river, he turned and walked to the west. He walked towards a steep mountain named the Koppelberg, and all the merry children ran after him. Then the Mayor and his friends were glad. They thought the piper could never climb the steep hill. They thought that he would stop his music and then the children would come back again. But no, the children never came back again. For, when the piper came to Koppelberg Hill, a great door opened

in the mountain, and the piper walked in and the children all followed him. When all were in, the great door shut, and the Mayor and the Councilmen never saw their children again.

There was one little lame boy. He could not run all the way, and, when the great door in the mountain shut, he was left outside. After this he was always sad. If people asked why he was sad, he said: "It is very dull in Hamelin now. The boys and girls have all left, and I have no one to play with. They are seeing beautiful things in the pleasant land where the piper led them. He said he was going to lead them to a beautiful land. He promised that I should go there too. The land is full of clear streams of water. Many fruit trees grow there. Many beautiful flowers are there, and everything is strange and new. The sparrows are more beautiful than peacocks. The dogs can run faster than our deer, and the bees have no stings. There are horses there with wings like eagles. I felt sure I was going to that beautiful land. I thought my lame foot would be cured and I would be happy. But just then the music stopped, and the great door shut, and I was standing alone outside the hill. I wish I could have gone with the other children to the happy land; but I am still here, lame and alone. I am afraid that I shall never hear of that beautiful country again."

THE WRECK OF THE HESPERUS.

One winter, many years ago, a schooner named the Hesperus was sailing on the sea. The sailors, the captain, and his little daughter were in the schooner. One evening, the captain was standing near the helm. He had his pipe in his mouth and was watching the smoke from the smoke-stack. Sometimes the wind blew the smoke south, and sometimes the wind blew the smoke west. The schooner was near a harbor. One old sailor said: "A golden ring was around the moon last night and the clouds cover the moon to-night. I fear we are going to have a storm." The old sailor was afraid that the coming storm might wreck the

schooner. He wanted to sail into the harbor, where the vessel would be safe. The captain blew a whiff of smoke from his pipe and laughed scornfully.

Near midnight, the wind began to blow very hard and cold. Flakes of snow fell fast into the sea, and the waves were very high. The storm tossed the schooner about on the sea, and the waves washed over the deck. The vessel rose and fell on the waves.

The captain's little daughter was frightened, and she shook with fear and cold. The captain was a vain, boastful man. He pretended that he was not afraid. He said: "I can guide my vessel safely through the roughest gale." He took off his overcoat and wrapped it around his daughter. Then he cut a rope from the schooner and fastened the little girl to the mast with it. He tied himself to the helm to keep from being washed overboard while he steered the vessel.

They heard fog-bells ringing. The captain knew the schooner was near a dangerous coast. He knew that no harbors were on that rocky coast. The people on the coast rang the bells to warn the sailors. He steered the vessel away from the coast. He became very cold while he steered the vessel.

Soon they heard some guns. The little girl was frightened. The captain told her that a ship had struck a rock, and the sailors in the ship had fired the guns. The people on shore would hear the guns, and they would send lifeboats to the ship to save the sailors. The waves washed over the captain, and his clothes became frozen, but he was a brave man. He would not give up steering the schooner. But he became colder and colder.

The little girl saw a light on the sea. She asked her father what it was, but he did not answer her. He had frozen to death. The child was terrified. She clasped her hands and prayed to God to save her from death. The wind blew the vessel toward some dangerous rocks. The high waves washed all the sailors from the deck. The rocks knocked a hole in the schooner and it soon sank.

The next day, a fisherman stood on the shore watching a dark

object on the ocean. The object drifted slowly to the shore. At last it reached the shore, and the fisherman was horrified to see the dead body of a beautiful girl tied to a broken mast. The salt water was frozen on her face and neck, and her long, brown hair rose and fell on the waves. She was the captain's daughter. The broken mast was the only part of the ship that drifted to the shore.

THE SIX SERVANTS.

MANY years ago there lived an old Queen. She was a bad Queen. She was a sorceress. She was always trying to do somebody harm. She thought and planned how she could catch men and kill them. She had no mercy for her victims. Now, this old sorceress had a daughter. The daughter was the most beautiful maiden in the world. The old Queen was proud of her beautiful daughter. When young men saw this maiden, they at once fell in love with her, and they wanted her for a wife. But the old sorceress was cruel and heartless. She liked to mock the lovers of her daughter. When a lover asked the old Queen for her daughter, she would give him some great task to do. If he could not do it, he was condemned to die. Thus the old Queen killed many lovers of her daughter.

There was a Prince who heard of this beautiful maiden, and he too wanted her for a wife. He asked his father to let him go and woo the maiden. His father would not consent, for he knew his son would surely die if he tried to win the daughter of the old Queen. Then the Prince was very sad, and he became very sick. He lay on his bed a very long time. No doctor could cure him. The father was very sorry that his son was so sick. He thought he would die. Then he told his son that he might go and woo the beautiful maiden. Then the Prince got well at once, and rose from his bed and started on his journey.

On his way, the Prince came to a wood. Far away, he saw a large object lying on the ground. He did not know what it was, but he rode on until he came near the object. Then he saw that it

was a man lying on the ground. The body of the man looked like a small mountain.

As soon as this huge man saw the Prince, he got up. He said to the Prince: "Let me be your servant." The Prince opened his eyes wide. He said: "What can I do with such a big man?" The fat man said that he could make himself a thousand times as big. Then the Prince said: "All right. Come with me." Then the fat man followed the Prince. After a while, the Prince and the fat man came up to another man. This man was also lying on the ground. He had his ear pressed on the grass. The King's son said to him: "What are you doing there?" The man said: "I am listening." The Prince asked: "To what are you listening?" The man replied: "I am listening to the people in the world. I hear everything. I can hear the grass growing." The Prince said: "Tell me what you hear in the yard of the old Queen who has the beautiful daughter." The man answered: "I hear the executioner cutting off the head of a lover." Then the Prince said: "I have use for you. Come with me." The man with the wonderful ears went with the Prince. As they travelled they came to a place where they saw a pair of feet on the ground. They saw part of the legs of a man, but they could not see the man's body. They walked on for a long time, until at last they came to the man's head. The Prince was surprised to see such a long man. He said: "What kind of a long thing are you?" The long man smiled and said: "When I stretch myself out I am taller than the highest mountain on earth. I will be your servant, if you want me." The Prince said: "Come; you can help me."

Going on farther, they came to a man sitting by the road. The man had his eyes bandaged. The Prince said to the man: "Are you blind? Have you weak eyes? Can you not look at the light?" The man answered: "I must not take the bandage off my eyes. My eyes are very sharp and powerful. If I look at anything, it flies to pieces. I will serve you gladly." The King's son said: "Follow me. You can help me."

Then they travelled on until they came to a man lying in the hot sunshine. The man seemed very cold, for he was shivering all

over. The weather was not cold, and the Prince asked: "Why are you shivering? The sun is warm enough, indeed." The man answered: "Oh, I am a strange man. When the weather is very hot, I am very cold; when it is very cold, I am very hot. In the ice, I burn; and in the fire, I freeze." The Prince said: "You are a strange fellow. If you wish, you may come with me." The cold man followed the Prince.

They went on until they came to a man standing by the road. The man was stretching his neck and looking about him. He looked about, over all the mountains. The Prince said to him: "What are you looking at?" The man answered: "I have very bright eyes. I can see everything. I can see through the earth." The Prince said: "Come with me, if you wish." Then the man with the sharp eyes went with the Prince.

Now the Prince and his six servants went into the town where the old Queen lived. The Prince went to the Queen. He said: "If you will give me your daughter, I will do anything for you." The sorceress answered: "I will give you three tasks to do. If you accomplish the tasks, then I will give you my daughter." The Prince asked: "What is the first task?" Then the old Queen threw a ring into the Red Sea. She told the Prince that he must find the ring, and give it to her. Then the Prince went to his six servants and told them about the ring. Then the man with the bright eyes said: "I can look and see where it lies." He looked into the water and saw the ring lying near a large stone. The long man wanted to reach and get the ring, but he could not see it. So the huge man lay down, and put his mouth in the water. The water ran into his mouth, and he drank up the whole sea, until it became dry, like a meadow. Then the long man bent over a little and picked up the ring. The Prince was very glad and he took the ring to the old Queen. She looked at the ring and was much astonished. She said it was the right one, and she praised the Prince because he had accomplished the first task.

Then the Queen gave the Prince the second task. The Queen had three hundred fat oxen in her meadow. She had also three hundred casks of wine in her cellar. The Queen told the Prince

that he must eat up all the oxen. She said that he must eat the bones, horns, and hair. She told him, also, to drink up all the wine in the three hundred casks. The Prince asked the Queen if he might invite some people to eat with him. The Queen laughed. She said he might invite one person, but no more. Then the Prince went to his servants. He spoke to the huge man. He told him about the oxen and the wine. The huge man went to eat with the Prince. He stretched himself very much and easily ate up all the oxen. There was not a hair left. He wanted more. Then the huge man drank all the wine out of the three hundred casks. There was not one drop left. When the huge man had finished eating and drinking, the Prince went to the Queen. He told her that the second task had been accomplished. The old Queen was very much astonished, indeed. She said that no one else could do what the Prince had done.

Then she thought awhile. She determined that the Prince should not escape. She gave him the third task. She said to the Prince: "This evening, I will bring my daughter to you. You must sit with her in your arms, but you must not go to sleep. I will come to you at twelve o'clock. If the maiden is not in your arms then, you must die." The Prince said: "Oh, that task will be easy. I shall keep my eyes open." The Prince went to his servants and told them about the third task. His servants said they would help him. At night, the old witch brought her daughter to the Prince. The Prince and the maiden sat together. Then the long man twined himself around them both. The huge man stood before the door, so no one could enter. Thus they all remained until eleven o'clock. Then the old witch charmed them all, and they fell asleep. Then the maiden was snatched out of the Prince's arms and carried away.

The Prince and his servants slept soundly until fifteen minutes of twelve o'clock, when they all awoke. The Prince was very much troubled, and he cried out: "I am lost." The servants were also frightened. But the Listener said: "Be still; I will hear where the maiden is." He listened a moment. Then he said: "I hear the Princess weeping. She is sitting three hundred miles

from here, inside a cave." Then the Prince told Long-Arms to go and bring the maiden back. Long-Arms said: "Yes, but Sharp-Eyes must go with me, to break the rock." Long-Arms took Sharp-Eyes upon his back, and then, in a moment, they were before the rock on which the Princess sat. Sharp-Eyes removed his bandage. He looked at the rock, and in an instant it was broken into a thousand pieces. Long-Arms took up the Princess and carried her home first. Then he went back for Sharp-Eyes. They were all safe in the room again before twelve o'clock.

As soon as the clock struck twelve, the old sorceress slipped into the room. She thought her daughter was safe away in the rocky cave. She thought she could now kill the Prince. But her daughter was there, in his arms. The old Queen was frightened, for she thought the Prince could do more than she could. The Prince had accomplished the three tasks. So the old Queen had to give up her daughter.

But the maiden was very proud. She did not want to marry the Prince. She thought of revenge. The next day the old Queen's servants brought a great pile of dry wood into the yard. Then the maiden said to the Prince: "I will not marry you, unless some one will sit upon this pile of wood, and be burned." The maiden thought that the Prince would sit upon the burning pile himself. But the cold man had done nothing yet. So he climbed upon the pile of wood. The fire was kindled, and the fire burned three days, until the wood was all burned up. The cold man stood in the ashes, shivering and shaking like a leaf. He said that he was almost frozen to death.

Now the maiden had to marry the Prince, and they were on their way to church to be married. Then the old Queen sent her soldiers to bring back her daughter. The Listener heard the soldiers coming and told the huge man. The huge man spit behind him a few times. This made a great lake, and the soldiers were drowned. They reached the church, and the Prince and the maiden were married. After their marriage, the six servants left the Prince, for he did not need them any more.

Now the Prince and Princess started for home. They had

travelled a long time, and came to a village. The village was near the Prince's castle. They saw a swineherd tending his pigs near the village. Then the Prince said to his wife: "Do you know who I am? I am not a King's son. I am a swineherd. This man with the drove of pigs is my father. We must go and help him." So they got out of the carriage and went to the inn. During the night, the Prince secretly carried away his wife's fine clothes. In the morning the Princess had nothing to wear. The lady of the inn gave her a pair of old slippers and an old gown. The Princess really believed that her husband was a swineherd. So she went with him to take care of the drove of pigs. She worked eight days. Then she could bear it no longer, for her feet were sore all over. Then two persons came to the Princess in the field and asked her if she knew who her husband was. She answered: "Yes; he is a swineherd."

Then the two men said: "Come with us, and we will take you to him." They took her to the palace. There her husband stood, dressed in royal robes. The Princess did not know him. But the Prince embraced her and said: "I suffered so much for you, it was only right that you should suffer for me." The Prince kissed his wife and told her that he was really a Prince. Then the Princess was very glad, and they lived happily together.

NERO.

About eighteen hundred years ago, Claudius was emperor of Rome. He had a son named Britannicus and a daughter named Octavia. Claudius' wife died, and he married his niece, Agrippina. Agrippina was a widow and had a son named Nero. Nero married his step-sister, Octavia. Agrippina was a cunning and ambitious woman. She wanted her son to become emperor, when Claudius died. Claudius was old and foolish, and his wife easily persuaded him to make his will and give the empire to Nero. Claudius was unjust, for he should have given the empire to Britannicus. Claudius afterwards repented of his

injustice to his son. He intended to make a new will and give the empire to Britannicus. Agrippina was very angry and determined to kill her husband before he could change his will, so she bribed a doctor to help her poison him.

Claudius was very fond of mushrooms. Agrippina put some poison into a dish of mushrooms and sent them to her husband. Claudius ate the poisoned mushrooms and became very ill. Agrippina called the doctor whom she had bribed. The doctor told Claudius that he would cure him. But he thrust a poisoned feather down Claudius' throat. Claudius died and Nero became emperor. Nero was then only seventeen years old. Agrippina ruled Nero. She was very tyrannical.

At first, Nero was just and virtuous; but in a few years he became very unjust and wicked. He became tired of his mother's tyranny, and treated her disrespectfully. Agrippina was very angry with Nero, and she threatened to take the empire from Nero and give it to Britannicus. Nero gave a banquet at his palace. He invited Britannicus to the banquet, and caused him to be poisoned while he was eating. Nero ordered his servants to remove the dead body of Britannicus, and bade the guests remain at the table.

Nero secretly ordered Rome to be burned, because he wanted to see a great fire. The city was almost totally destroyed. Nero stood on a high tower and sang while the city was burning. Nero accused the Christians of burning Rome. He cruelly persecuted them. Some were covered with the skins of animals and given to the dogs, and some were burned alive in Nero's garden.

Nero caused Rome to be rebuilt in great splendor. He built an immense palace which he called his Golden House. There were artificial lakes, woods, parks, gardens, and orchards within the palace. The entrance of the Golden House was one hundred and twenty feet high. There was a large statue of Nero in the entrance. The roof of the palace was covered with gold. The walls were overlaid with gold and ornamented with precious stones. The ceiling of the banqueting-room represented the sky. It was covered with gold stars. It was always turning around and show-

ering perfumed water on the guests. Nero took all the money out of the public treasury to build the Golden House. The Romans did not like Nero, because he was so extravagant. Cneius Piso planned a conspiracy against Nero. Many Roman noblemen were engaged in the conspiracy. Nero discovered the plot and put many of the conspirators to death.

Nero became tired of his wife Octavia, and he wanted to divorce her and marry another woman named Poppæa Sabina. Agrippina would not allow Nero to divorce his wife. Nero greatly feared his mother, and would not disobey her. But Poppæa was very bad and cunning. She told Nero that his mother wanted to kill him. She urged Nero to kill his mother. Nero consented, and he tried many times to kill his mother secretly. He was afraid to kill her openly, because the Romans respected her.

One time, Nero procured an old, weak vessel, and persuaded his mother to take a trip on it. Agrippina did not know that the vessel was weak, and consented to go. The vessel was wrecked near the shore. Agrippina could swim, and she escaped from the wrecked vessel and swam to the shore. Agrippina now began to suspect Nero. She sent a note to Nero telling him of her escape. Nero was very much disappointed and alarmed, for he thought his mother would be revenged. Another time, Nero tried to kill his mother by lowering the ceiling of her bed-room on her while she slept. But Agrippina had discovered the plot, and did not sleep in her bed-room that night. At last, Nero sent a company of soldiers to Agrippina's house to kill her, and they murdered her.

Nero then divorced his wife, Octavia, and afterward killed her. He married Poppæa Sabina. He went on a tour through Italy, and sang in the Theatre at Naples. He won several prizes for his singing. Poppæa accompanied him on this tour. While he was at Naples, he sent a letter to the Roman Senate. He told them that he had killed his mother because she was plotting to kill him. However, Nero soon tired of his new wife, and kicked her to death.

Nero returned to Rome. Soon after his return, the people

rebelled against him. Nero heard about the rebellion while he was eating. He was terrified, and overturned the table with his foot and fainted. When he recovered, he acted like a crazy man. He tore his clothes, beat his head, and cried. He called for Locusta, a woman famed in the art of poisoning. He asked her to give him some poison to kill himself. He tried to poison himself, but some person prevented him. All his friends now deserted him.

Nero then rushed from the house. He ran from house to house, but nobody would help him. He asked the soldiers to kill him, but they refused. They told him to kill himself. Nero ran to the Tiber river to drown himself, but he was afraid to jump into the water. He then asked some soldiers to help him escape, but they refused. They taunted him, and would not help him. Nero was greatly distressed.

A man named Phaon saw Nero. Nero had been kind to Phaon, and Phaon was grateful to him. He was sorry for Nero and told him to go to his house and hide from the people. Nero gladly accepted Phaon's offer. He mounted his horse and started for Phaon's house, which was four miles from the city. Four servants went with Nero. Nero covered his face and head with a handkerchief, for he did not want the people to know him.

While Nero was on the way, an earthquake occurred. Nero was dreadfully alarmed. Passing the camp of some soldiers, he heard the soldiers cursing him. He met a traveller, who did not know him. The traveller said: "There go men in pursuit of Nero." Just then Nero's horse became frightened at a dead body that lay by the road. The horse jumped, and Nero's handkerchief fell from his head. Just then a soldier saw Nero, and called him by name. Nero leaped from his horse and ran into a thicket. He crawled through the thicket on his hands and knees. He went into the house. His servants urged him to kill himself quickly, or he would be captured and taken back to Rome. Nero ordered his servants to dig his grave, and decorate it with bits of marble. While the men were digging Nero's grave, a messenger arrived from Rome. He said that the Roman Senate had condemned Nero to die according to the ancient law. Nero asked the mes-

senger what the ancient law was. The messenger told him that he would be stripped and beaten to death with rods.

Nero was terrified. He seized two daggers. He pretended he was going to stab himself; but he again lost his courage, and returned the daggers to their sheaths. Just then the soldiers were approaching the house. Nero heard the sound of their horses' feet. He took one dagger and placed it against his throat; but he was afraid to stab himself. A man standing near took the dagger, and thrust it into his throat. Nero fell on the floor and died.

Just as Nero fell, the soldiers entered the house. One soldier tried to stop the blood, so that they could take Nero back to Rome alive; but they were too late.

Nero had been kind to some poor people, and they were very sorry that he was dead. They put flowers on his tomb.

CYMBELINE.

A LONG time ago, when England was called Britain, a king named Cymbeline reigned. Cymbeline had three children, one daughter and two sons. His wife died when the children were very young. The sons were stolen when the eldest was three years old and the youngest was an infant. Cymbeline could not discover who stole them. The eldest boy's name was Guiderius, and the infant's name was Arviragus. The daughter's name was Imogen.

Cymbeline married again. He married a widow, who had one son. The son's name was Cloten. She was a wicked, crafty woman, and a cruel stepmother. She hated Imogen, but wanted her to marry Cloten. She knew if the king's sons were not found, Cloten would become king when Cymbeline died. But Imogen had been married secretly to a man named Posthumus.

Posthumus was a very wise man. His father was killed, fighting for Cymbeline, in a war. His mother died soon after his father was killed. Cymbeline pitied Posthumus because he was an orphan. He took him to his home, and was very kind to

him. Imogen and Posthumus were both taught by the same teacher. They played together and became very fond of each other, and were married.

Imogen's step-mother set spies to watch her and Posthumus. She soon found out they were married. She was very much disappointed and told Cymbeline that Imogen and Posthumus were married. Cymbeline was very angry when he heard this, and he banished Posthumus from Britain forever.

Imogen was much grieved, for she loved Posthumus very much. The queen pretended to pity Imogen. She offered to help Imogen to see Posthumus before he went away from Britain. She thought she could persuade Imogen to marry Cloten after Posthumus went away. Posthumus and Imogen met, and bade each other farewell. They were both much grieved. Imogen gave her husband a diamond ring which had been her mother's. Posthumus promised never to give it away. Posthumus gave Imogen a beautiful bracelet. He put the bracelet on her arm, and asked her to keep it always. Imogen vowed never to part with it. Posthumus then left Imogen, and started for Rome.

The queen now wanted Imogen to marry Cloten. She told her that her marriage with Posthumus was unlawful, because the king did not give his consent. Imogen refused. She did not believe the treacherous queen. Imogen was very sad and silent.

Posthumus arrived at Rome. He there met young men from different nations. They were always singing the praises of the ladies they loved. Posthumus heard them. He said his wife was the wisest, most beautiful, and best lady in the world. One of these gentlemen, named Iachimo, heard Posthumus say this, and was offended. He became very angry with Posthumus because he praised a lady from Britain more than the Roman ladies. Iachimo said he would go to Britain and see Imogen. He told Posthumus he would try and gain Imogen's love. If he failed, he was to pay Posthumus a great deal of money. If he succeeded, Posthumus was to give him Imogen's diamond ring.

Iachimo went to Britain, where he met Imogen. She was very glad to see him, because he was a friend of her husband's.

She was very kind to him. Iachimo told Imogen he loved her. She was very angry with him. She then hated Iachimo, and treated him with disdain. He was very much disappointed because he had failed to make Imogen love him. He was a very deceitful man, and he determined to get into Imogen's bed-room. He bribed some of her attendants to carry him into the bed-room and hide him in a large trunk. He stayed in the trunk until Imogen had fallen asleep. He then got out of the trunk. He looked at everything in the room and wrote the names of all the pictures and furniture on paper. He then walked quietly to the bed and saw a mole on Imogen's neck. He remembered it. He took the bracelet off her arm, and got into the trunk again. The next day he got out of the trunk and started for Rome. When he arrived, he went to Posthumus. He told him the names of the pictures and furniture in Imogen's room. He said the curtains were made of silk and silver. Posthumus doubted Iachimo. He told Iachimo some person had told him all this. Iachimo then showed him the bracelet, and told him about the mole on Imogen's neck. He told Posthumus Imogen took the bracelet off her arm, and gave it to him. He said she told him she did not care for the bracelet. Posthumus was surprised when he saw the bracelet and heard this false story. He then believed Imogen was false. He cursed Imogen, and said she was a deceitful woman. He gave the diamond ring to Iachimo.

Posthumus was very jealous. He wrote to Pisanio, a gentleman of Britain. Pisanio was one of Imogen's servants. He was also a faithful friend of Posthumus'. He told Pisanio Imogen was a false woman. He asked Pisanio to take Imogen to Milford Haven, a town in Wales, and kill her. At the same time he wrote a deceitful letter to Imogen. He told her to go with Pisanio to Milford Haven. He said he would meet her there. He told her he could not live without seeing her. Imogen loved her husband, and was very anxious to see him. As soon as she received the letter, she started for Milford Haven with Pisanio.

When Pisanio and Imogen were near Milford Haven, Pisanio told Imogen that Posthumus wanted him to kill her. Pisanio was

a good servant. He loved Imogen, and refused to kill her. When Imogen heard this, she was much grieved. Pisanio comforted Imogen and told her Posthumus would repent. Pisanio wanted her to return to her father's house. But Imogen refused. She said she would go to Rome and see Posthumus. Pisanio told her to disguise herself, and dress in men's clothes. Pisanio got her a suit, and Imogen dressed herself in it. Pisanio then gave her a vial of medicine, which he said the queen had given to him. The queen told Pisanio it would cure all diseases. He then left Imogen, and returned to Cymbeline's house.

The queen hated Pisanio, because he was a friend of Imogen and Posthumus. She thought the medicine was poison. The queen had asked her physician to give her some poison to kill animals. The physician knew she was a wicked woman, and gave her medicine which would cause a person to sleep, and appear to be dead. The queen intended that Pisanio should take the medicine and die.

Imogen went on her way to Milford Haven. The way to Milford Haven was through a thick forest. She lost her way and wandered through the forest, until she came to a cave. She was tired and hungry and went into the cave. There was nobody in the cave. She saw some cold meat, and she sat down and began to eat.

Now Bellarius and Imogen's two brothers lived in this cave. Bellarius was a lord in Cymbeline's court. He had been unjustly accused to the king of treason. The king had banished him. Bellarius wanted to be revenged. So he stole the king's sons and carried them to this forest. They lived in this cave. Bellarius soon became very fond of the boys and gave new names to them. He called them Polidore and Cadwal. The boys thought Bellarius was their father.

Bellarius and Imogen's brothers were out hunting. While Imogen was eating, they returned. Bellarius entered first. When he saw Imogen, he was surprised and stopped. He told the boys to stay outside of the cave. Bellarius admired Imogen. She heard Bellarius and came towards him. She was frightened.

She asked them not to harm her. She was afraid they would think she was a thief. She offered to pay them for the meat she had eaten. She said she was lost, and came into the cave. She thought perhaps they were angry with her.

Bellarius asked Imogen where she was going and what her name was. She told him her name was Fidele. She said she was on her way to Milford Haven. She told Bellarius she had a friend in Rome, and she was going to sail from Milford Haven for Rome. Bellarius talked pleasantly to Imogen and asked her to stay all night. Then he called the boys into the cave, and told them to treat her kindly. The boys admired Imogen. They all thought she was a boy. They were all kind to her. Imogen and the boys prepared supper. After supper she sang to them. They thought she sang very sweetly. She would have liked to stay with them always, but she was obliged to go to Posthumus. But she consented to stay until she was rested.

Bellarius and the boys went out to hunt again. Imogen stayed in the cave, because she was sick. They bade her farewell, and left the cave. When Imogen was alone, she thought of the medicine Pisanio had given her. She drank it, and soon fell asleep. She looked like one dead. When Bellarius and the boys returned, Polidore went first into the cave. He saw she was asleep, and he pulled off his boots and walked quietly. Polidore soon found that noise would not awaken her. He thought she was dead, and he mourned for her. Bellarius and the boys carried her out into the forest. They laid her on the grass and covered her with leaves. They sang solemn songs, and were all very much grieved. They went back to the cave.

In a few minutes, Imogen awoke. She shook off the leaves and flowers. She thought her being in the cave and meeting these kind friends was a dream. She did not know how she had come there. She could not find her way back to the cave, so she started again on her way to Milford Haven.

While Imogen was on the way to Milford Haven, a war began between Cymbeline and the Roman Emperor, Augustus Cæsar. A Roman army came into the forest through which Imogen was

going. Posthumus was a soldier in the Roman army. But he did not intend to fight against his own country. He intended to join the army of Britain, and fight for Cymbeline, who had banished him.

He still believed Imogen was false to him. Pisanio wrote a letter to Posthumus. He told him he had killed Imogen. He was sorry he had caused Imogen's death. He thought he would be killed in battle or that Cymbeline would kill him for disobeying his command.

Imogen did not reach Milford Haven. The Roman army captured her. They were pleased with her, and she was made a page to Lucius, a Roman general.

Cymbeline's army advanced to meet the Roman army. They entered the forest. Polidore and Cadwal joined Cymbeline's army. They were delighted to go to war. They did not know they were going to fight for their own father. Bellarius went with them to the battle. He repented stealing Cymbeline's sons, and he gladly joined the army to fight for Cymbeline.

The battle commenced. Posthumus, Bellarius, and Cymbeline's sons fought bravely. They saved the king's life and the Britons gained the victory.

The battle was over. Posthumus was not killed, and he surrendered himself to one of Cymbeline's officers. He was willing to die. When Cymbeline banished him, he had told him if he came back to Britain, he would put him to death.

Imogen and Lucius were taken prisoners. They were brought before Cymbeline. Iachimo was an officer in the Roman army. He too was captured and brought before Cymbeline with Imogen and Lucius. They were now all before Cymbeline. Posthumus was brought before Cymbeline. He intended to have Posthumus killed. At the same time Bellarius, Polidore, and Cadwal were brought before Cymbeline to receive reward for saving Cymbeline's life. Pisanio was also present. Imogen saw Posthumus and recognized him at once. He was dressed as a peasant. Posthumus did not know Imogen. Imogen knew Iachimo, and she saw the ring which she had given to Posthumus on Iachimo's finger.

Pisanio recognized Imogen. Bellarius saw her and knew her also. He whispered to Cadwal that it was Fidele. Cadwal and Polidore thought she looked like Fidele, and they told Bellarius it could not be Fidele, for he was dead.

Posthumus did not want Cymbeline to know he had helped save his life in the battle. He thought Cymbeline would pardon him. He did not want to be pardoned. He wanted to die.

Lucius spoke first to Cymbeline. He was a very brave man. He told Cymbeline he was not afraid to die. Lucius asked Cymbeline to pardon his page. He told Cymbeline his page was a Briton, and was good and kind. He said the page did not fight against the Britons.

Cymbeline looked at Imogen, but he did not know her. He thought her face familiar. He pardoned her. He told Imogen to ask anything she wanted, and he would grant it. Imogen thanked Cymbeline. They were all eager to hear what the page would ask for. Lucius thought Imogen would ask for his pardon. He told her not to ask Cymbeline to pardon him. Imogen said she was sorry, but she could not ask for his life. Lucius was surprised when he heard this.

Imogen asked Cymbeline to make Iachimo tell where he got the ring he wore on his finger.

Cymbeline commanded Iachimo to tell where he got the ring.

Iachimo confessed how he had gotten the ring. He told how he had deceived Posthumus.

Posthumus heard Iachimo tell the story. He now knew Imogen was innocent.

Posthumus came forward and confessed to Cymbeline. He told him he had asked Pisanio to kill Imogen. Posthumus was glad Imogen was innocent. He was much distressed.

Imogen was sorry her husband was so much troubled, and she told him who she was. Posthumus was now very happy. He was glad Imogen was alive.

Cymbeline rejoiced to find his lost daughter. He pardoned Posthumus, and received him as his son-in-law.

Bellarius then confessed that he had stolen the two sons of

Cymbeline. He told him that Polidore and Cadwal were his two sons.

Cymbeline forgave Bellarius. He was very glad to get his sons and daughter again. Imogen asked Cymbeline to pardon Lucius, and Cymbeline gladly pardoned him.

The queen was very angry, because Imogen and Cymbeline's sons were found. She now knew Cloten could not become king. Cloten was soon killed in a quarrel. The queen became sick and died. Cymbeline was not sorry, for he knew she was a wicked woman. They were all very happy now. Iachimo was dismissed. Cymbeline did not punish him.

THE STORY OF SAMSON.

THERE was a man in Israel named Manoah. Manoah and his wife were good people. They had no children. The angel of the Lord told Manoah's wife that they should have a son. He said this son must serve God always. He said that he must never drink wine. He told them never to cut the child's hair. The angel said that their son should free the children of Israel from the Philistines.

Manoah's wife did not know it was an angel who had spoken to her. She thought it was a prophet. She told her husband what she had heard. Manoah asked God to send his prophet to them again, so they might know what to do to this child.

One day Manoah's wife was sitting in the field. The Lord sent the angel to her again. Her husband was not with her. So she ran for her husband to tell him the prophet had come. They both returned to the field, and the angel told them to remember what he had told the woman before.

Manoah did not know that he was talking to an angel. So he asked the angel to stay with them, until they had prepared some food for him. But the angel would not stay. Then Manoah took a kid and put it upon a rock. He offered it as a burnt offering to God. The angel did a wonderful thing. The fire burned on the

rock. The flames went up toward Heaven, and the angel of the Lord went up in the flame.

Manoah and his wife saw this. They bowed down with their faces to the ground. Manoah said: "We have seen God." He was afraid. He believed that the angel was the Lord. He said to his wife: "We shall surely die, because we have seen God." His wife answered: "If the Lord meant to kill us, he would not have let us offer up a burnt offering. He would not have told us that we should have a son."

Not long after, God gave a son to Manoah and his wife. They called their son Samson. The child grew, and the Lord was very kind to him.

When Samson became a man, he went to a city called Timnath. He saw the daughter of a Philistine there. He was very much pleased with her. He came back home and said: "I have seen a woman in Timnath whom I love. She is the daughter of a Philistine. I wish to marry her, and I want you to get her for me."

Samson's father and mother did not wish him to marry a Philistine, because the Philistines were their enemies. They wished Samson to marry a woman of Israel.

But Samson would not consent to give up the daughter of the Philistine. He again asked his father to get her for him for his wife. At last his parents consented to get her. They started with Samson to Timnath. They reached the vineyards which were in that country. A young lion met Samson and roared at him. Samson was very strong. He had no sword or spear to kill the lion. So he caught the lion in his arms and strangled it to death. Samson and his parents went on to Timnath. There they saw the young woman Samson wished to marry. Then they returned home.

Samson went to Timnath again to marry this woman. On the way, he came to the place where he had killed the lion. He looked at the dead body of the lion and saw that a swarm of bees had made honey in it. He took some of the honey in his hand and ate it. He gave some of it to his father and mother. But he did not tell them he had taken it out of the dead body of the lion.

When Samson was married, he made a feast at Timnath. The feast lasted seven days. Thirty Philistines came to the feast. Samson said he would give them a riddle. He told them to find out what it meant and tell him. He said that if they guessed the riddle before the feast was ended, that he would give them thirty suits of clothes. If they could not guess it, they must give him thirty suits of clothes. The Philistines agreed to do this. They asked him to tell them his riddle.

Samson told them the riddle. He said: "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness." The riddle meant: out of the strong lion that had tried to kill Samson, Samson had taken honey for himself to eat.

But Samson did not tell the Philistines what it meant. They tried for three days to guess it, and finally, on the seventh day, they went to Samson's wife and said to her: "If you do not help us to find out this riddle, we will burn you, and also your father's house."

Then Samson's wife was much frightened, and she went to Samson and asked him to tell her the riddle. At first he refused. Then she said: "You do not love me. You hate me, because you have given the riddle to my friends and refuse to tell me the answer."

Samson said: "I have not told my father or my mother. Why should I tell thee?" But she wept and coaxed still more. She troubled Samson exceedingly. At last he told her. When he had told her, she went and told the Philistines.

The Philistines came to Samson on the seventh day. They pretended they had found out the riddle themselves. They did not tell Samson that his wife had told them. They said: "What is sweeter than honey, and what is stronger than a lion?" But Samson knew his wife had told them.

The Philistines had been very cruel to the children of Israel. The Lord wanted Samson to begin to punish them for their cruelty. Now the time had come to begin. The Lord had said Samson should set the children of Israel free. The Lord had made Samson very strong, so that he could do this work.

Samson went to a city called Ashkelon, which belonged to the Philistines. He slew thirty Philistines there. He took thirty suits of clothes from them and brought the clothes to Timnath. He gave them to the thirty Philistines who had told him the riddle. Then he went back to his own home. His wife did not go with him. She stayed with her father in Timnath.

During the wheat harvest, Samson went to Timnath to visit his wife. He took a kid with him to give to her. When Samson reached his wife's home, her father would not let him come into the house. He said he had given her to another man for a wife.

Samson was very angry. He went and caught three hundred foxes. Then he tied fire-brands to their tails and let them loose in the fields and vineyards of the Philistines. Their grain had been cut and piled in shocks. But some grain was still growing in the field. The foxes ran through the fields, and the fire-brands which were tied to their tails set fire to all the Philistines' grain. Their grape vines and their olive trees were also burned. When the Philistines found out that Samson had done this, they took his wife and her father and burned them to death. Samson fought against the Philistines and killed many of them. Afterward, he went to the top of a rock called Etam, and staid there. The Philistines wanted to take Samson prisoner, and so they followed him. They camped in the land of Israel.

The men of Israel were afraid of the Philistines. They asked the Philistines why they had come there. The Philistines said: "We came to take Samson and bind him. He has burned our grain, our vineyards, and our trees. We want to capture and kill him." Three thousand Israelites went to the top of the rock Etam. Samson was still there. The Israelites said: "Do you not know the Philistines are rulers over us? Why have you burned their grain, their vineyards, and their trees?" Samson said: "Because the Philistines have done evil to me, I have done evil to them."

Then the Israelites told Samson that they had come to bind him. They said they had to give him up to the Philistines, or the Philistines would destroy them. Samson asked them to promise

not to kill him if he would allow them to bind him. The Israelites answered: "We will not kill thee, but we will bind thee and give thee to the Philistines."

Samson let them bind him with two new cords. They started to take him back to the Philistines. When they got near the camp, the Philistines saw Samson, and they were very glad, and began to shout. The Lord gave Samson great strength. He broke the cords which bound him very easily. He found the jaw-bone of an ass. He took it in his hand, and fought against the Philistines, and killed a thousand Philistines with it.

Samson became very thirsty. He had no water to drink, and he was very weak. He prayed to the Lord for water. The Lord opened a spring in that place. The water flowed from it, and Samson drank the water, and became strong again.

Samson went to a city called Gaza. He went into a house in that city. The Philistines were living in Gaza. They heard Samson was in the city, and they determined to take him prisoner. They shut the gates of the city. Then they watched by the gates all night. They thought Samson would try to go out of the city, and then they would take him prisoner. But they thought he would not leave the city until morning. They said: "In the morning, we shall kill him."

About midnight, Samson rose and started to leave the city. When he reached the gates, he found them closed. He dragged up the two posts to which the gates were fastened. A great bar went across the gates on the inside, to keep them shut. Samson put the gates, the posts, and this bar on his shoulder. He carried them to the top of a high hill some distance from the city. The Lord had made Samson very strong, and none of his enemies could harm him. Samson's hair had never been cut. It had grown thick and long. The Lord had commanded Samson never to cut his hair.

Samson often visited the house of a woman named Delilah. The lords of the Philistines heard that Samson went to see Delilah. They had often tried to take Samson captive. But he was too strong, and they had always failed. The lords of the

Philistines went to Delilah, and said: "If you find out and tell us how to bind Samson and take him captive, we will give you eleven hundred pieces of silver." Delilah said she would try to find out, and tell them.

When Samson came to visit Delilah, she begged him to tell her what made him so strong. She asked him how he might be bound so that he could not get loose again. Samson deceived Delilah by telling her a lie. He said that if he were bound with seven green withes, he could not break them, and would be helpless. Then Delilah told the lords of the Philistines what Samson had said. They brought her seven green withes. She hid a number of the Philistines in the room, for she did not want Samson to see them. The Philistines meant to take Samson prisoner, if he could not break these withes.

When Samson came to see Delilah, he let her bind him with these withes. She wanted to see if he could break them. She said: "The Philistines are coming to take thee, Samson." When Samson heard this, he broke the withes as if they were only threads. Delilah was very angry because he had fooled her. She said he had told her lies and mocked her. She begged him again to tell her how to bind him.

Samson said that if he were bound with two new ropes, he would not be able to break them. Delilah again hid the Philistines in the room. She got two new ropes. Samson let her bind him. Then she said: "The Philistines are coming to take thee, Samson." But Samson broke the ropes as he had broken the withes.

Delilah told him that he had told her a lie again. She begged him to tell her how to bind him so that he could not get free. Samson said that if she would plait his long hair a certain way, he would become weak. Then she plaited his hair, and said: "The Philistines are upon thee, Samson." When he heard her say this, he rose up and went away, as strong as before.

Delilah said to Samson: "How can you say that you love me, when you have mocked me, and told me lies three times?" Every day she begged Samson to tell her. She annoyed and troubled

Samson very much. At last he told her the truth. He said that if his hair was shaven off, he would become as weak as other men.

Now Delilah saw that Samson was not trying to deceive her. She believed him. She sent for the Philistines again. They came, and brought the eleven hundred pieces of silver with them. She hid them in the room. While Samson was asleep, Delilah called

HE HAD TO TURN A MILLSTONE TO GRIND THEIR CORN

a man to shave the hair from his head. After his hair was cut off, Delilah cried: "The Philistines are coming to take thee, Samson."

Samson woke from his sleep. He said he would now fight against the Philistines. He did not know that the Lord had taken his great strength from him. Then the Philistines took him, and bound him with chains of brass. Samson was weak, and could not save himself. They put out Samson's eyes. They shut him up in prison and made him work very hard. He had to turn a millstone to grind their corn.

While Samson was in prison, he repented of his sin. He knew he had been wicked and done wrong to tell Delilah how to take his strength from him. The Lord had commanded him not to have his hair cut, and he had disobeyed the Lord.

After a while Samson's hair grew long; and the Lord gave Samson his strength again, but the Philistines did not know it. The Philistines held a feast. They rejoiced because they had taken Samson prisoner. The Philistines worshiped an idol named Dagon. They said their idol had helped them to take Samson captive. They offered up a sacrifice to Dagon, and sang songs of praise to him. They were all very merry and glad. They sent to the prison for Samson, for they wanted to make fun of him. These wicked Philistines brought poor blind Samson out of the prison. They set him between two pillars in the house of their idol. Then they made sport of him.

Now, the building was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were in the house. A great number of people were on the roof of the house watching Samson. The people inside of the house mocked Samson, and made sport of him. A boy led Samson about, because Samson could not see. Samson asked the boy to let him feel the pillars which held up the roof of the house. The boy guided him between two pillars. Samson put his arms around the pillars. He said: "O Lord, remember me, and give me strength this once. Let me die with the Philistines."

Then Samson bent down, and pulled the pillars together with all his might. The pillars moved from under the house, and the house fell. The lords of the Philistines and the people in the house were all killed. Samson died also with the Philistines. His brethren came and took his dead body away. They buried it in his father's sepulchre.

READING is good for us all. Good books are like good friends. From them we gain much wisdom and knowledge. In good books we find many beautiful thoughts. He who reads these often becomes noble and good.

BLUE-BEARD.

A LONG time ago, a man called Blue-Beard lived in Arabia. Blue-Beard was very rich, and he owned a number of fine houses. He lived in a grand old castle. The walls of the castle were covered with ivy. A beautiful road led to the door of the castle, and fine trees and fragrant shrubs grew on each side of the road.

The inside of the castle was more beautiful than the outside. The rooms were hung with rich silks, and the chairs and sofas were covered with velvet, fringed with gold. His dishes were of the finest gold and silver, richly carved. His carriages and harnesses were ornamented with gold, and his horses were the finest in Arabia.

Although Blue-Beard was wealthy, he was very ugly. The people feared him. His face was coarse. His eyes were deep-set and fierce looking. His eye-brows were shaggy, and his beard was long and blue, which caused the people to call him Blue-Beard. No ladies would look at him. He had married several wives but had killed them in a few days.

A few miles from Blue-Beard's castle, there was a little cottage. An old lady and her two daughters lived in this cottage. The old lady had two sons, but they were in the army. The old lady and her two daughters lived very happily in their nice little cottage. They were not rich, but they had enough money to live comfortably. The two sisters were beautiful, and everybody talked of their beauty. Blue-Beard heard about them, and he made up his mind to visit their mother. He ordered his carriage, and drove to their house. He saw the two sisters and their mother. He was pleased with the sisters, and he wished to marry one of them. He did not care which one. Their names were Fatima and Anne. Fatima was the younger. He liked one as well as the other. Blue-Beard talked to them for awhile. Then he asked their mother if he might speak to her alone for a few minutes. She consented, and the two sisters left the room.

As soon as the two sisters went out of the room, Blue-Beard

told their mother that he wished to marry one of her daughters. He said that he did not care which one. They were both lovely, and he would be happy with either of them. He told the mother to choose which daughter should marry him. Then he went home.

The mother called her daughters to her and told them Blue-Beard wished to marry one of them. But they both refused. They said they would not marry such an ugly man. Their mother told them to think a little longer about it, for Blue-Beard was rich and very polite. Anne and Fatima said they did not care if he was rich. They knew he was cruel, for they had heard that he had killed several wives. Their mother said she doubted this. The two sisters were not anxious to get married, for they did not wish to be separated.

The next day Blue-Beard called to see them. They were upstairs and refused to come down to see him. Blue-Beard pretended to feel very sad, and sighed deeply. But he was not discouraged, and he continued to visit the family.

Two young ladies came to visit Anne and Fatima, and Blue-Beard asked the mother, her two daughters, and their guests, to visit at his house for a few days. He thought Anne or Fatima would marry him, if they saw his fine house. They accepted the invitation, and dressed themselves, and set out for his castle. They had never seen Blue-Beard's castle, but they had heard about his beautiful gardens and house. Everything was finer than they expected. The air was filled with the perfume of the flowers.

When they reached the castle, Blue-Beard met them at the door, and greeted them very cordially. Servants in fine dresses took them to the drawing-room. A grand dinner was ready for them, and they took off their hats and coats and went to the dining-room. They were surprised to see so many gold dishes. The evening passed quickly, and they were astonished when it was time to retire.

The next morning the ladies walked about the castle, and examined the pictures and furniture. Everything was elegant, and the day passed very pleasantly. Each day brought new

pleasures. They hunted, feasted, and danced. Blue-Beard was very kind to his guests, and he gave them choice fruits and fragrant flowers. He was cunning. He wanted Fatima and Anne to like him.

They all enjoyed their visit very much, and they remained longer than they had intended. Fatima thought Blue-Beard a very kind and civil gentleman, and a short time after she returned home, she consented to marry him. Her mother sent word to Blue-Beard at once, telling him that Fatima would marry him. Blue-Beard hastened to visit the family, and in a few days, he married Fatima. They went to the castle, taking Anne with them. The servants were at the castle gates to welcome them. They entered the castle. Blue-Beard kissed his wife, and then led her and Anne in to supper.

For a month, they had a very happy time. But at the end of the month, Blue-Beard told his wife he was going away for a few weeks to attend to some business. He said: "My dear Fatima, during my absence you can enjoy yourself in any way you please. You can invite your friends to visit you. You are mistress in this castle. I will give you the keys to all the rooms and boxes. Here are the keys of the two large wardrobes. This is the key of the box which contains the finest dishes. This other is the key of the box in which I keep my money. And this key opens the box in which I keep my jewels. Finally, this is the key which opens the door of the Blue Closet. The Blue Closet is the room at the end of the long hall. You must not open this door. You may go into all the rooms in the castle except this Blue Closet. You must not even put the key into the lock. Keep all the keys until I come back. Now do not forget about the Blue Closet. If you disobey me, you must expect the most dreadful punishment."

Fatima promised not to forget, and promised to obey all his orders. Blue-Beard put on his hat and coat and started. Fatima walked to the gates with him. He kissed her, and stepped into his coach, telling her he might not come back for three weeks. Then he drove away.

As soon as Blue-Beard had gone, Fatima sent for her friends to come and stay with her. Her two brothers were staying in a town near the castle. She also sent for them to come to the castle. They sent her word they would come the next day.

Her friends were eager to see Blue-Beard's jewels. In a few hours, they had all arrived at the castle. Fatima was proud of the fine furniture, pictures, dishes, and jewels in the castle. She took her friends through every room and closet in the castle. They went from room to room, and from closet to closet. When they went into the drawing-room, they thought they were in a fairy palace. The furniture and everything in the room was so elegant.

During the day, Fatima was so busy she never once thought of the Blue Closet. But when all her friends had gone, she began to think about it. She felt a great desire to know what the Blue Closet contained. She took out the key and examined it. The key was made of the finest gold; a fairy lived in it. Fatima went to her sister and told her she was going to open the door of the Blue Closet. Her sister tried to persuade her not to open it. But Fatima was curious, and wanted to see what was in the closet. She took a candle and ran downstairs to the Blue Closet. On reaching the door, she stopped. She knew she was doing wrong. After hesitating a moment, she put the key into the lock. She unlocked the door and walked into the room. She was horrified at what she saw, for on the floor lay the bodies of the wives whom Blue-Beard had killed.

These wives had been curious like Fatima. Blue-Beard had given them the key, and told them not to open the door. But they had disobeyed him, and opened the door. He always pretended that he was going away for a few weeks. But he always came back the next day, and killed them for their disobedience.

When Fatima saw the dead bodies lying on the floor, she trembled like a leaf. She became dizzy, and she thought she was going to fall. In her terror, she dropped the key. She stooped to pick it up. Then she saw written on the wall, in large letters:

"The Reward of Disobedience and Curiosity." Fatima ran out of the closet and locked the door. She ran to her sister's room. She told her about the bodies she had seen on the floor in the Blue Closet. Then she looked at the key and saw that there was blood on it. Fatima and Anne were greatly frightened. They tried to clean it off, but they could not. They washed it and scoured it with sand all night. When they succeeded in cleaning it off on one side, the fairy caused the blood to come on the other.

The next day, Fatima tried again to clean the blood from the key, but again she failed. She thought to run away from the castle before Blue-Beard should come back. She expected her brothers in a few hours, so she decided to wait and ask them what to do. Just then she heard a loud knock at the gate. She leaped for joy, for she thought her brothers had come. She was going to meet them, but the door opened and Blue-Beard walked into the room. Fatima was terrified. Her heart beat wildly, although she pretended to be very happy at Blue-Beard's unexpected return. Her face was pale, and her hands shook. Blue-Beard said that he had received a letter saying the business was done, and he did not need to go.

Now Blue-Beard had no business to attend to. He only wanted to try Fatima with the key of the Blue Closet. He had gone a few miles from home and stopped. As soon as Fatima opened the door, the fairy flew and told Blue-Beard, and he hurried home. He asked Fatima for the keys. He said he wished to go to his room and change his dress. Fatima said she had left them on the table in her room, but she would go and bring them to him. She brought all the keys except the one to the Blue Closet. She hoped Blue-Beard would not miss that key. He took the keys from her carelessly and examined them. He said sternly: "How is this, Fatima? I do not see the key of the Blue Closet among them. Go and bring it to me at once."

Fatima said: "I do not know where it is. I will go and search for it." She went to her sister. They tried again to scour off the blood. She heard Blue-Beard coming, and she began to cry.

Blue-Beard called her, and she was obliged to go and give him the key. He looked at the key and became furious at once. He said: "How came this blood on the key?" Fatima said: "I am sure I do not know, Blue-Beard." "What! you do not know? You have disobeyed me, and have been in the Blue Closet! And since you are so fond of prying into secrets, you shall go and stay with the ladies you saw there."

Fatima knelt down and begged him to forgive her. But the cruel Blue-Beard refused. He drew his bright sword, and bade her prepare at once to die. He raised his sword to kill her, but at that moment, Fatima's sister entered the room. Seeing him with his sword raised, she shrieked loudly, and begged him not to kill her sister, but he refused. However, he told Fatima he would give her fifteen minutes to pray before he killed her. The two sisters began to weep and cry aloud. Blue-Beard fearing some of the servants would hear them, seized Fatima and dragged her up to the room in the tower. Anne followed and he thrust them both into the tower. He told Fatima she could have time to pray. Then he locked the door and left her.

Fatima began to cry bitterly. She knew Blue-Beard would kill her, and she could not escape, for he had locked the door. She only hoped her brothers would be in time to save her. Fatima told Anne to go up to the top of the tower and look to see if her brothers were coming. Anne went up and looked eagerly over the roads which led to the castle, but she saw nobody on the road. Every moment Fatima called to her sister, and asked if she could see their brothers coming. Her sister always said: "I see no one in sight."

Poor Fatima! She was on her knees weeping. Finally, she heard Blue-Beard coming back. He came to the door and cried: "Are you ready? The time is up." She begged him to give her five minutes more to finish her prayers. He consented and went away. Fatima called to her sister again: "Do you see no person coming yet?" Anne said: "No! there is not a person in sight."

At last, the five minutes were up, and Blue-Beard came to the door and called out: "Are you ready yet?" She begged him

to give her only two minutes more. He consented, and went away laughing. He knew she could not escape.

Fatima knew the next time Blue-Beard came to the door he would kill her. She said: "Dear Anne, do you not see anybody coming yet?" Anne said: "I see a cloud of dust." Fatima said: "Do you think it is my brothers?" Anne said: "No! it is a flock of sheep." She heard Blue-Beard coming. She asked him to give her just one minute more. Then she asked for the last time: "Sister Anne, do you see any person coming yet?" Her sister said: "Yes! I see two men on horseback; but they are a great way off."

"Thank Heaven!" cried Fatima, "I shall yet be saved. It must be our two brothers. My dear sister, signal them." Anne waved her handkerchief. Her brothers saw her and rode rapidly to the castle.

Blue-Beard bursting open the door, aimed a blow at Fatima, but she dodged the blow. Blue-Beard became furious at this and caught her by her hair. He was about to kill her when her two brothers rushed into the room.

When Blue-Beard saw the two brothers coming, he threw Fatima to the floor, and tried to escape. But the brothers caught him and killed him.

When Blue-Beard caught Fatima by the hair, she fainted. Her brothers lifted her tenderly from the floor, and fanned her. When she became better, they told her Blue-Beard was dead. She was glad, and she thanked her brothers many times for saving her.

Blue-Beard had deceived his servants, and they all thought he was a kind, good man. They did not know anything about the Blue Closet. The two brothers called the servants together and told them that Blue-Beard had intended killing his wife. Then they showed the Blue Closet to the servants, and the servants all said that he had been justly killed.

Blue-Beard had no relatives, so Fatima got all of his wealth. Blue-Beard was privately buried, and all the ladies he had slain were buried beside him. Then Fatima caused the Blue Closet to be pulled down and destroyed.

Fatima gave each of her brothers a fine castle and a large sum of money. And to her sister Anne, who married, she gave a large sum of money. She was very good to the poor. After a short time, Fatima married a good nobleman, and they lived very happily in the castle.

CLEOPATRA.

Cleopatra was a queen of Egypt. She was a very wicked and crafty woman. She was beautiful and accomplished, but very cruel. She was also very extravagant. At one time, she dissolved a number of costly pearls in a glass of wine, and then drank the wine. She spent large sums of money for fine clothes and jewels.

Cleopatra had a brother named Ptolemy. Ptolemy wanted to be king. Cleopatra and Ptolemy disputed about the throne. At that time Cæsar and his army were in Egypt. Cæsar was a great Roman general. He decided the dispute in favor of Cleopatra. Cæsar was also consul of Rome. He returned to Rome, and in a short time was killed.

A man named Mark Antony now became ruler. He was also a great general. Mark Antony was fighting against two men named Brutus and Cassius. Cleopatra's soldiers helped Cassius. Antony was angry at Cleopatra for allowing her soldiers to help Cassius. Antony was at Tarsus. He sent for Cleopatra to come to Tarsus. He wished to punish her. Cleopatra had great faith in her beauty, and she thought Mark Antony would forgive her when he saw how beautiful she was. She was not afraid to meet him.

Though he sent for her many times, she did not hurry. She travelled slowly in a beautiful boat. The stern of the boat was covered with gold. The sails were costly silk, and the oars were silver. The sailors were lovely girls. Some of them rowed the boat, and some of them played on golden harps. The girls kept time to the music with their oars. They were all beautifully dressed.

Cleopatra lay on a sofa under a canopy embroidered with gold. She was dressed as Venus. Venus was the goddess of beauty. Little boys stood on each side of the sofa, fanning her. They sailed down the river Cydnus. The shores of the river were covered with people, who wanted to see Cleopatra. The sailors burned incense on the boat to perfume the air.

When Cleopatra arrived at Tarsus, Antony did not meet her, but sent her an invitation to supper. Cleopatra was offended, and did not accept the invitation. She thought it Antony's duty to call on her first, and show his politeness. He finally came to the boat to see her. He was astonished at the magnificent boat and the beautiful girls, and he was delighted with the music and perfume. When he saw Cleopatra, he forgot everything else. He became very foolish about her, and neglected his duties to stay with her. Antony had a wife named Octavia. Octavia sent for him, but he would not leave Cleopatra. At last he divorced Octavia to marry Cleopatra.

Octavia had a brother named Octavius. Octavius was a Roman general. He was offended with Antony because he had divorced his sister. He gathered his army at Actium, a city in Greece. Antony and Cleopatra went to Actium to fight with Octavius. Antony had neglected his army, and it had become small. During the battle, Cleopatra fled to Egypt. She had seen that Antony would be defeated. Antony followed her. When he arrived in Egypt, he felt ashamed, because he had deserted his soldiers who were fighting so bravely. He heard Octavius was coming to Egypt to capture him, and he stabbed himself, rather than allow Octavius to capture him.

Cleopatra went into a building, and barred the gates. Octavius sent a man named Proculeius to bring Cleopatra to him. Cleopatra refused to open the gates. At last he got a ladder and climbed over the gates. He entered the house through the window, and took Cleopatra prisoner. Cleopatra tried to stab herself, but Proculeius snatched the dagger from her.

Octavius gave orders to treat Cleopatra with respect. He intended to take her nice clothes from her, and make her wear ragged

clothes. In a few days, he meant to take her to Rome, and make her walk through the streets. He wanted the people of Rome to make sport of her.

Cleopatra was very proud. She heard Octavius was going to take her to Rome. She did not wish to be taken through the streets of Rome for the people to make fun of her, and she determined to kill herself. She dressed herself in her royal robes, and attended a great banquet. She partook of the banquet. After the banquet, she went to her room. She commanded all her servants except two women to leave the room. She had an asp secretly brought to her in a basket of figs. An asp is a poisonous serpent. If an asp should bite you, you would die almost instantly. Cleopatra put the asp into her bosom. The bite of the asp caused her death.

She had written a letter to Octavius telling him that she intended killing herself. He sent messengers to prevent her killing herself, but they arrived too late. Cleopatra was lying dead on a couch in her royal robes.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT.

Alexander the Great was given his name, because he conquered many countries. His father was king of Macedonia. His father's name was Philip, and his mother's name was Olympias. Alexander was born at Pella, three hundred and fifty-six years before Christ. His father was a skilful soldier. His mother was very energetic but superstitious. Alexander was a good soldier like his father, and was superstitious like his mother. He was also very ambitious and learned. He was educated by a philosopher named Aristotle. Alexander was very fond of natural history. He employed several thousand persons in Europe and Asia to collect animals for the study of natural history.

When Alexander was twenty years old, his father was killed, and Alexander became king of Macedonia. The Thebans rebelled against him. He collected a large army and marched against

them. He went to Thebes, and captured the city and sold the people as slaves. He then burned the city to the ground.

Alexander's father had planned a war against the Persians. Darius was king of the Persians. Alexander took up and followed the plan of his father. He crossed the Hellespont and marched to the Granicus river. He met and defeated the Persian army on the banks of the river. During this battle, Alexander was nearly killed by a Persian soldier. The soldier had raised his sword to kill him. But Clytus, Alexander's friend, saw the soldier and cut off his arm.

Alexander then marched to Sardis. The people living in Sardis had heard of the defeat of the Persians at the Granicus. The governor of Sardis was a coward. He hastened to meet Alexander, and met him eight miles from Sardis, and surrendered the city with all its treasures. If the governor had been courageous, he might have kept the city. Alexander marched through Asia Minor. All the cities in Asia Minor surrendered to him one after another. He then went to Issus. He met Darius, king of Persia, at Issus, and defeated him again. Darius fled, and left his wife and mother at Issus. Alexander treated them with great respect and consideration.

He then marched to Phœnicia. All the cities of Phœnicia, except Tyre, surrendered to him. The siege of Tyre lasted seven months. A strait separated Tyre from the main land. Alexander built a bridge across the strait. The bridge was half a mile wide. The soldiers stood on the bridge and tore down the walls of the city. Alexander showed no mercy to the people of Tyre. Two thousand men were hanged on the sea-shore, and the women and children were sold as slaves. Darius wrote a letter to Alexander and demanded his family. He offered Alexander his daughter Statira in marriage, and part of Asia, if he would cease his warfare. Alexander refused. He said he would marry Statira if he chose, without Darius' consent.

Alexander now marched towards Egypt. On the road towards Egypt, he captured several cities. He marched through Egypt to the Libyan desert. He paid a visit to Jupiter Ammon.

Jupiter Ammon was the name of a very fine temple. A priestess lived in this temple. She was a prophetess. She could foretell wonderful things, and decide important questions. Alexander went to see the priestess, and asked her some questions about his conquests. She answered them in a way to please him. He then went back through Egypt. While in Egypt he founded a city and named it Alexandria. Then he marched to Persia.

While Alexander was in Egypt, Darius collected an immense army. There were more than a million men in this army. Darius and his great army were on the plain of Gaugamela. Darius was very hopeful, and he felt sure he would win the battle. Alexander was very cautious, for he had heard of Darius' immense army. He marched against the Persians and defeated them. Darius fled and his soldiers followed him. Alexander went to Babylon, and entered the city in triumph. He took the treasures of the city and divided them among his soldiers. He did not keep any of the treasure for himself. He then went to Susa. Susa was the treasure city of the Persians. Here Alexander found treasure amounting to sixty millions of dollars. He then went to Persepolis, the capital of Persia. The kings of Persia had always lived at Persepolis. There was much gold and silver and many jewels in the city. Alexander captured treasures amounting to one hundred and fifty millions of dollars. It took five thousand camels and a great number of mules to carry the treasure from the city. The men who lived in Persepolis were killed, and the women were sold as slaves.

Alexander allowed part of his army to rest at Persepolis. Hearing that Darius was at Ecbatana, he took the treasure and part of his army and went to Ecbatana. When Alexander reached Ecbatana, he found that Darius had left that city and gone to Bactria. The governor of Bactria was named Bessus. When Darius arrived at Bactria, Bessus took him prisoner. Bessus hearing that Alexander was coming to Bactria, offered to let Darius escape. But Darius refused to leave the city. He rode through the streets in his chariot, and was shot by an arrow. When Alexander arrived at the city, Darius was dead. Alexander now took the throne of Persia.

Philotas and Parmenion were generals in Alexander's army. Parmenion was the father of Philotas. Philotas heard of a conspiracy against Alexander. He kept it a secret for two days, because he did not wish to alarm Alexander. Besides, he was not sure that the report was true. When Philotas told Alexander about it, Alexander was very angry because he had not told him about it at once. Some persons falsely accused Parmenion of being one of the conspirators. Alexander wished to get rid of Parmenion and Philotas because they had offended him. Therefore, he caused them to be put to death.

Alexander went to Afghanistan and conquered it. Then he returned to Bactria. During his stay at Bactria, some persons betrayed Bessus to him. He ordered Bessus to be sent to the city naked, and in chains. During the winter Alexander remained at Bactria. He summoned Bessus to be brought before him. He caused Bessus' ears and nose to be cut off. Then he sent him away to be killed.

During the spring, Alexander went to Sogdiana. He defeated the Scythians and captured Maracanda. At Maracanda he married a princess named Roxana. He had become by this time very proud and arrogant. He was always boasting to his friends of his conquests, until finally his friends were disgusted with him. One night at a banquet he became very drunk, and was boasting as usual of the number of countries that he had conquered. He even took the credit of conquering some countries which his father had conquered. His friend Clytus became impatient with him. Clytus told Alexander that his conquests were not so great as his father's conquests. Alexander was enraged with Clytus for saying this. He felt for his dagger, but he did not have it. His friends had taken it from him. He then ordered his guards to bring him a dagger. But they refused to obey him, because he was drunk. Some of his friends feared he would kill Clytus in his anger, and they held him in their arms. He cursed them for holding him, and shaking himself free, snatched a spear from one of the guards. He thrust the spear through the body of Clytus. When he became sober, he repented having killed Clytus. For

three days he neither ate nor drank, and his soldiers became alarmed about him. They feared he would starve himself to death. At last they persuaded him that Clytus had been justly killed. Not long after this, Alexander discovered a conspiracy among his pages. He had the pages tortured for a while, then stoned to death.

Alexander now continued his march, and captured a great many cities. He stopped at Gordium. There was an old chariot in Gordium, which had belonged to an old king named Gordius. Gordius had tied the pole of the chariot to the yoke with a thong. The knot was very intricate, and nobody could untie it. It was prophesied that the person who untied it should be king of Asia. Many persons had tried, and had failed to untie it. Alexander feared he could not untie it, so he did not try. Instead of untying it, he cut it with his sword.

Alexander next invaded India. He defeated Porus, king of India, and took him prisoner. Alexander had a beautiful horse named Bucephalus, of which he was very fond. The horse would allow no person but Alexander to ride him. Alexander always rode Bucephalus. While he was in India the horse died. He built a city where the horse died, and called it Bucephalia. He then marched to the Indus river. But his soldiers refused to go any farther, for they were worn out by their long marches. Alexander then gave orders to return home. They built a fleet and sailed down the Indus river to its mouth. They got off the boats and marched across the Gedrosian desert. While crossing this desert the soldiers suffered very much from thirst and sickness. They went to Susa. At Susa, Alexander married Statira, the daughter of Darius. Alexander offered to pay the debts of all his soldiers who would marry Persian wives.

Alexander had conquered nearly all the world except Arabia, so he concluded to conquer Arabia. He sent to Babylon and Phœnicia to have ships built. Then he and his armies started for Ecbatana. On the way Hephæstion died. Hephæstion was a favorite general. Alexander's grief for him was very great. For two days he neither ate nor drank. He cut his hair short, and

ordered that all the horses and mules in the army should have their manes cut off. He was very fierce in his grief, and his soldiers feared to speak to him. He continued his march to Arabia. Alexander had Hephæstion's body taken to Babylon for burial. At that time, it was the custom to have a great feast when a friend died. Alexander went to the feast, and he drank wine all night. The next day he slept, and the next night he drank again. The next day he was sick. He had a high fever, and was not able to get up. He became worse, but continued to give orders about the war against Arabia. When he was dying, one of his generals asked him who should succeed him. He said the strongest general in his army. However, he gave his signet ring to Perdiccas. A few hours later he died. He was thirty-two years old at the time of his death.

At one time, Alexander went to Corinth. Many statesmen and philosophers came to Corinth to congratulate him. There was a philosopher named Diogenes living in Corinth. Diogenes lived in a tub. Alexander hoped Diogenes would come and congratulate him, but he did not. Then Alexander went to see him. He found him lying in the sun near the tub. When Diogenes saw so many people coming towards him, he raised himself a little and looked at them. Alexander went near and stood before him. He asked Diogenes if he could do anything for him. Diogenes said: "Only stand a little out of my sunshine." Alexander was surprised at the answer. He said: "If I were not Alexander, I should wish to be Diogenes."

Alexander had a great desire for knowledge, and liked to travel in new countries. One day he sat on a rock by the sea, and wept because there were no more countries for him to conquer. Though Alexander was a very bad man, he did a great deal of good by carrying the arts and customs of Greece from one country to another. He built more than a hundred cities, and named them each Alexandria.

"By doing nothing, we learn to do ill."

MACBETH.

DUNCAN, the Meek, was king of Scotland. He was called the Meek, because he was a good, kind, and generous king. There was a lord named Macbeth in Duncan's court. Macbeth was a relative of Duncan's, and Duncan was very fond of him. Macbeth was a brave soldier. He had fought in many wars, and was honored by the King and lords for his brave deeds.

Once Macbeth and Banquo, a Scottish general, were returning victorious from a great battle. The road was over a lonely field. Three strange figures stopped them. They were like women with beards. Their skin was wrinkled and withered. Their hands were large, and their fingers were long and bony. Their lips were thin, like paper, and they were very ugly creatures. They were witches. Macbeth spoke first to them. They pretended to be offended, and each put her bony finger on her thin lips. At last one of them spoke. She called Macbeth Lord of Glamis. He was surprised that the witch knew him. Then the second witch spoke. She called him Lord of Cawdor. The third one said: "All hail to the future King!" Macbeth was amazed at what the witches said. Macbeth knew the King had a son, and while the son lived Macbeth never could become king. So he doubted what the witches said.

The witches then spoke to Banquo. They told him he would never become king, but his sons would in the future be kings of Scotland. The witches then disappeared.

While Macbeth and Banquo stood talking about these strange words of the witches, a messenger arrived from the King. The messenger told Macbeth the King had heard how bravely he had fought in the great battle, and that he had made him Lord of Cawdor. This astonished Macbeth. He could not reply to the messenger. He now believed what the second witch had said. Macbeth thought that the prophecy of the third witch might come true also, and some time he would be king of Scotland. Banquo doubted all that the witches had said. He thought they were trying to tempt Macbeth.

But the prophecies of the witches caused Macbeth to have wicked thoughts. Banquo warned Macbeth to pay no attention to the prophecies, but he would not listen to him.

Macbeth had a wife. When he arrived at home he told her what the witches had said. He told her that immediately after the witch had called him Lord of Cawdor, a messenger arrived and said the King had made him Lord of Cawdor. His wife was much surprised at the strange prophecies of the witches. She was a very treacherous and bad woman, and she was ambitious. She wanted her husband to be a great man. She knew Macbeth could not become king until Duncan died. Lady Macbeth then tried to persuade her husband to murder Duncan. But Macbeth loved Duncan, and did not want to murder him. Lady Macbeth teased him and made fun of him for being weak and timid.

Duncan was a very sociable king, and he often visited the lords and ladies of his court. Macbeth's castle was a very pretty place, and the King liked to visit it. The air was pure and healthy.

At this time, Duncan, his two sons, Malcolm and Donalbain, and many lords and attendants, went to visit Macbeth. When the King entered Macbeth's castle, Lady Macbeth met him and treated him very courteously. She pretended to love the King. The King was much pleased with Lady Macbeth. Lady Macbeth was deceitful, but she covered her deception with smiles, and made the King believe she was his friend. The King praised Macbeth for his courage in war.

It was a long journey from the King's palace to Macbeth's castle. The King was very tired, and so he retired early. Two attendants slept beside the King. Before the King retired, he gave presents to the chief lords, and he gave a valuable diamond to Lady Macbeth.

The people in the castle were all sound asleep, except Lady Macbeth, who was awake plotting the murder of Duncan, her kind and generous King. Lady Macbeth would not trust her husband to plot the murder. She knew he loved the King, and would not murder him. Although he promised Lady Macbeth to murder Duncan, she doubted him. So she took a dagger in her own

hand and came to the King's bed. There lay the King sound asleep. She looked at him earnestly. She thought he looked much like her father. She lost courage, and did not thrust the dagger into his breast.

She returned to Macbeth. He refused to murder Duncan. He reasoned with Lady Macbeth. He told her he was a relative of the King. He said he had entertained the King that day, and it was his duty to shut his doors against murderers. He said he could not be a murderer himself. He thought how just and merciful a king Duncan was, and how generous he was to him. He told Lady Macbeth God would doubly punish the murderer of so good a king. He said he had received many favors from the King, and was honored by men. He knew all these honors would be stained by so foul a murder.

Lady Macbeth saw Macbeth had changed his mind, and had resolved not to murder Duncan. She reasoned with him. She told him the deed would be easily done, and would soon be over, and then he would be king. She told him he was fickle and cowardly. She said she had nursed a babe, and loved it fondly, but if she had promised to dash its brains out, she would have done it while the babe was smiling in her face. She told Macbeth he had sworn to murder Duncan, and must keep his promise. She said he could blame the drunken grooms for the murder. Lady Macbeth had given the grooms drugged wine, which made them drunk and stupid. Macbeth now gained courage to murder the King.

So, taking the dagger in his hand, he walked quietly through the dark to the bed-room where Duncan slept. As he went, he thought he saw a dagger in the air with the handle toward him. He thought he saw blood on the point of the dagger. He tried to grasp it, but it was nothing but air.

He entered the King's bed-room. He walked quietly to the bed. He thrust the dagger into Duncan's breast. Just then one of the grooms, who slept beside the King, smiled in his sleep. The other cried: "Murder!" which woke both. One said: "God bless us," and the other said: "Amen." And they went to sleep again. Macbeth stood listening to them. He tried to say amen, when he heard the groom say: "God bless us," but he could not speak.

Macbeth thought he heard a voice crying: "Sleep no more!" It cried many times through all the house: "Sleep no more! Macbeth shall sleep no more!"

Macbeth imagined he heard these things. Lady Macbeth thought he was staying a long time, and she became very impatient. She thought Macbeth had failed to murder the King. At last Macbeth returned to his evil wife. He was almost distracted. She reproached him for being frightened. She told him to wash the blood from his hands. She then took the dagger and went to the King's room. She stained the cheeks of the grooms with the blood on the dagger. She laid the dagger near the grooms and left the room. She wanted people to accuse the innocent grooms.

In the morning the murder was discovered. Lady Macbeth pretended to be much grieved. They found the dagger by the grooms, and their faces smeared with blood. The King's friends did not accuse the grooms, but at once suspected Macbeth. Duncan's two sons fled, Malcolm, the eldest, going to England, and Donalbain to Ireland. They would have become kings of Scotland, but they refused to stay where their father had been murdered.

Macbeth now became king of Scotland, and Lady Macbeth was queen. They could not forget the prophecy of the witch, that Macbeth would be king, but also that the children of Banquo would be kings after him. They were troubled, for they wanted their own children to be upon the throne after them. So they determined to put Banquo and his son, Fleance, to death.

Macbeth made a great supper. He invited all the lords of Scotland and Banquo and his son Fleance. Murderers waited on the way which Banquo and Fleance were to pass. Macbeth had put them there. As Banquo and Fleance were passing, Banquo was stabbed and died instantly, but Fleance escaped.

At the supper the Queen was very gay, and talked pleasantly to all her guests. Macbeth said that all the honorable men in the country were now under his roof except Banquo and Fleance. He pretended to regret Banquo's absence. But just as he was speak-

ing, the ghost of Banquo, whom he had caused to be murdered, entered the room. The ghost sat down on Macbeth's chair. Macbeth saw the ghost, and became white with fear. He stood staring at the ghost, and he could not move. The Queen and the guests saw him staring at the chair. They could not see anything on the chair, and they thought Macbeth was crazy. The Queen went to him and reproached him. She whispered in his ear that he imagined he saw a ghost, as he did the dagger in the air the night he murdered Duncan. Macbeth still stood staring at the ghost. He did not hear what the Queen said, and began talking to the ghost. The Queen was frightened. She was afraid he would tell about the murder of Duncan, and she hastily dismissed the guests.

After this Macbeth and the Queen were very miserable. They had terrible dreams. The murder of Banquo troubled them even more than the escape of Fleance. They never had any peace. At last Macbeth determined to find the witches, and ask them what to do.

He hunted for the cave where they lived. The witches knew that he was coming, and they were busy preparing charms. They called up all the evil spirits into a large caldron. The witches called up three spirits. The first spirit was an armed head, and it called Macbeth by name. It told him to beware of the Lord of Fife. The Lord of Fife was Macduff. Macbeth was jealous of him and hated him. Macbeth thanked the evil spirit, and it disappeared into the caldron.

The second spirit arose. It was like a child covered with blood, and it called Macbeth by name. It told him not to fear anybody, for nobody should have power to harm him. It told him to be bold and firm. "Then live, Macduff," said the King. "What need I fear but thee?" The spirit disappeared. Macbeth resolved to kill Macduff.

The third spirit then arose. It was like a child, with a crown on its head and a tree in its hand. It also called Macbeth by name. It told him to fear no conspiracies, that he would never be dethroned until the woods of Birnam should come to Dunsinane Hill against him. Macbeth was much pleased with what this

spirit said. He thought the forest could not be uprooted. He said: "Who can unfix the forest, and move it from its earth-bound roots?" Macbeth thought he had now nothing to fear.

Macbeth then asked the witches to tell him if Fleance, Banquo's son, should ever reign in Scotland. Just then the large caldron, from which the evil spirits arose, sank into the ground, and a noise like music was heard. Eight shadows, like kings, passed by Macbeth. Banquo was the last who passed by. He carried a glass which showed the figures of many more kings. Banquo was all bloody. He smiled at Macbeth, and pointed to the figures in the glass. Macbeth knew the figures were the children of Banquo, who would reign after Macbeth in Scotland. The witches danced to the music that they heard. They bowed to Macbeth and disappeared. And from this time his misery was greater.

Macbeth came out of the cave. The first news that he heard was that Macduff, Lord of Fife, had fled to England to join the English army against him. Malcolm, Duncan's oldest son, commanded the army. They wanted to drive Macbeth from the throne. Macbeth was mad with rage when he heard this. He immediately went to Macduff's castle and caused Macduff's family to be murdered. He caused his relatives also to be put to death.

These cruel deeds made him many enemies. All the most powerful lords fled and joined Malcolm's army.

Malcolm and Macduff were now approaching with a powerful army from England. The lords who were compelled to remain with Macbeth secretly wished Malcolm and Macduff success. Macbeth could not get many soldiers to fight for him. They thought he was a tyrant; and no person loved or honored him. He began to wish he was in his grave and that Duncan, whom he had murdered, were still king.

During the time these things were happening to Macbeth, the Queen was very unhappy. She never had any peace. At night, she could not sleep. She knew all the people hated her and Macbeth. She died, and many people thought she had killed herself. Macbeth was now alone, and he had no person to tell his wicked designs to. He had not a friend on earth.

Macbeth wished he were dead. He heard Malcolm's army was approaching, and he determined to fight bravely. He thought about what the witches had said. He thought he never would be dethroned, and he became very confident that he would succeed. He shut himself up in his strong castle and waited for Malcolm's army. One day a messenger came to Macbeth. The messenger was pale and shaking with fear. He told Macbeth that as he stood on the hill watching, he looked toward Birnam Woods. He said the woods were moving. Macbeth cried: "Liar! Slave, if thou speak falsely thou shalt hang on a tree." Macbeth was much alarmed, and he now began to doubt what the spirits said. He called his soldiers and went to meet Malcolm's army.

When Malcolm's army was marching through Birnam Woods, Malcolm had told each soldier to cut a bough from a tree and to carry it before him. He wanted to conceal the soldiers. Macbeth's messenger had seen this, and he thought the woods were moving. He became frightened, and told Macbeth the woods were moving.

The armies met, and a terrible battle was fought. Macbeth's army was small, but his soldiers fought boldly. Macbeth cut every one to pieces who opposed him. At last he came to where Malcolm and Macduff were fighting. When he saw Macduff, he remembered what the witches said, to "beware of the Lord of Fife," which was Macduff. Macbeth wanted to avoid Macduff, but Macduff stopped him. They fought together fiercely. Macduff reproached Macbeth. He accused him of murdering his family and friends. He called him a tyrant, a murderer, and a villain.

Macbeth thought Macduff could not hurt him. He believed what the witches had told him. Macbeth told Macduff that he could not kill him. He told him his life was charmed. Macduff told Macbeth the spirit was false. He told him he was foolish to believe those lying spirits. Macbeth cursed Macduff, but he trembled with fear, and he said he would not fight with him.

Macduff scorned Macbeth. He said he would not kill him. He said he would take him and show him to the people as men

show wild beasts. He said he would have a sign painted, on which was printed: "Look at the tyrant." "Never!" said Macbeth. His courage had returned, and he said he would not live to see Malcolm on the throne, and to hear the people curse him. He attacked Macduff fiercely. They fought, and Macduff killed Macbeth. He cut off his head and gave it to Malcolm, the lawful king of Scotland. Malcolm ascended the throne, and the lords and all the people welcomed him. They received him with shouts of joy.

VALENTINE AND ORSON.

MANY years ago there was a king of France called Pepin. King Pepin was very fond of hunting. One spring morning he went to Artois forest to hunt. A large number of lords went with him. It was Saint Valentine's morning. They were in high spirits, and they laughed loudly as they rode through the valleys to Artois forest. They passed swiftly through the woods and thickets until they came to a lonely dell. While riding slowly through this dell, they found a new-born child.

The child was lying on the ground, covered with a fine red silk handkerchief. They took the handkerchief off him. He was wrapped in a golden mantle pinned with a silver pin. They were all surprised, and gathered around the little child. They looked for the mother, but could not find her. They called her, but she did not come. At last the King came up and looked at the baby. He was pleased with it, because it smiled and stretched its hands toward him.

King Pepin thought it might be some prince's child, and he ordered the courtiers to take it to his court. He named it Valentine, because it was found on Saint Valentine's day. The King bade them treat it as a prince. They got a clever nurse who took good care of it.

When Valentine became older, he was very smart and witty. The King and lords all loved him. He became skilled in the use of arms. When he was a man, King Pepin made a knight of him,

that he might have a chance to win fame. When Valentine was knighted, he asked King Pepin to keep the first adventure for him. The King promised. In a few days, three men clad in gray clothes came to the King. They had come from Artois forest, and they were weak and weary. With tears in their eyes, they asked the King to help them capture a savage boy who lived in Artois forest. He annoyed the people, and they were afraid of him.

This savage boy lived in a den with bears. He ate with the bears, and drank the blood of men. He was very strong and cunning, and no one could take him. Sir Valentine heard the three men telling about the savage boy. He arose and said that he would conquer that savage boy. The King told him to go, and great should be his reward if he succeeded. Valentine had never fought anybody. He mounted a milk-white steed, and put on armor as white as snow.

He hastened to Artois forest, and soon saw the savage boy tearing to pieces a wild beast. His uncombed hair was long and matted, and it hung around his shaggy shoulders. His eyes and face were fierce looking. His finger nails grew like eagles' talons. His limbs were thick and strong, and he carried a dreadful knotted stick with him.

Sir Valentine approached him. As soon as he saw Sir Valentine, he made a sudden spring. He gave a hideous howl that made the forest ring. He sprang at Sir Valentine's throat, but Sir Valentine struck him with his spear. The savage boy fell on his knees. Then Sir Valentine struck him again, and he fell to the ground. He sprang up, and raised his club. He aimed a blow at Sir Valentine's head, but Valentine bent his head and dodged the blow. The club struck Valentine's spear and broke it.

Then Valentine jumped from his horse and drew his sword with which to defend himself. The savage boy ran as quick as lightning to snatch the sword from him, but Valentine struck him with it. The savage boy tried several times to take Valentine's sword, but failed. Then he became furious. He threw his arms around Valentine, and with a strong and sudden twist, laid him on the ground. But Valentine soon overturned the savage boy.

They pounded each other with their fists, and grappled, and rolled on the ground for a long time. Valentine was skilful and active, while the savage was very strong. At last Valentine conquered the savage. He bound him with an iron chain, and tied him to his horse's tail. He took him to court and presented him to the King. The loss of blood had made the savage weak and tame. Sir Valentine kept the savage boy for his servant. He named him Orson, because he had lived with bears. Orson became a good and true servant to Valentine.

Many of the princes and peers were envious of Valentine. One day the King gave a feast in honor of Sir Valentine, and many guests attended the feast. While they were eating, a young knight teased Valentine about his birth, and because he did not know who his parents were. The knight said Valentine's parents were of low station. Valentine felt hurt at this mean reproach, and vowed that he would not rest till he had found his parents.

He bade the King and the lords adieu, and went away from the court. His faithful servant Orson went with him. They travelled for many days over hills and valleys. At last they came to a bridge of brass which crossed a moat to a castle. The castle was built of marble, and a high wall was around it. The wall was covered with gold, which glittered in the sun. A hundred bells hung under the bridge, and if a man or beast walked on the bridge, all the bells would ring.

Valentine and Orson crossed the bridge, and all the bells rang. The castle gates opened wide, and a huge giant appeared. He walked toward them with stately pride, and ordered them to yield, or he would kill them. Valentine refused to yield. He told the giant he would break down the gates of the castle and set the captives free. He spurred his horse, and thrust his spear into the giant, but did not kill him. This made the giant furious. He took his large steel mace and aimed a blow at Valentine, but he missed him. Valentine struck the giant a number of times. At last the giant gave a fearful blow, which struck both Valentine and his horse, and made them fall to the ground senseless. The giant smiled, and stooped to strike them again; but Orson now struck him

on the head with his knotted club. The giant fell to the ground, opened his mouth, and rolled his eyes. Orson struck the giant again and again till he gasped and died. Then he helped Sir Valentine, who soon revived. And then both went to search the castle. They found the bones of many murdered knights, and at last they found a lady in a lonely cell. Her eyes were full of tears and her cheeks were pale with woe.

Valentine asked her how she came there. She said: "I have lived here for twenty years. I have witnessed many crimes, and often wished to die. I am the sister of a king. When I was young, I married a prince. I lived with the prince for twelve months. Then a treacherous priest made trouble between us. He pretended to be our true friend. He appeared to be a good man, but he was treacherous. He told my husband lies about me. My husband believed them, and condemned me to die. Afterwards, he changed his decision. Instead of killing me, he bade me leave the country. I left the country with one trusty knight for my guard. I started for my brother's distant court with a breaking heart. We walked and made our way slowly through foreign countries. When we came to a wild forest, I became ill. My guard left me alone to go and seek for help. While he was gone, two lovely boys were born. The elder boy was fair and smooth, but the younger boy was rough and covered with hair. I wrapped my elder son in my cloak to shield him from the cold. A prowling bear came from the woods and seized my younger child. I jumped up and ran after them; but I was weak, and quickly swooned away.

"I lay lifeless beneath the trees for some time; then my guard brought help and soon revived me. But neither of my pretty babes could be found. We wandered far through the forest. We met the giant, who killed my trusty guard and carried me off to his castle. The giant kept me a prisoner here, but never tried to harm me."

"Surely," said Sir Valentine, "you are Lady Bellisance. You were wife to the Grecian Emperor, and your brother is King of France. I have often heard the story of your troubles. I live in your brother's court. The priest who accused you unjustly is

dead. And when he was dying, he confessed his crime. Your husband has looked for you in every foreign country. And when he could not find you, he vowed to live a hermit's life within the court."

The lady was delighted to hear that her husband was still living, and cried for joy to think she should see him soon. Sir Valentine thought this lady must be his mother. He knelt on his knee and asked her if she would know the cloak that was wrapped around her babe if she should see it. Then he took the golden cloak from his pocket, which was the cloak in which he was found. When the lady saw it, she gave a sudden shriek, and fell fainting on the ground. When she revived, he told her the story about himself, and she knew he was her son.

Then she turned and looked at Orson, and asked: "Who is this hairy youth? He looks very much like you. If the bear had not devoured my son, I would think it was he." Then Valentine told the lady the story about Orson living with bears in Artois forest. Valentine asked the lady if there were any marks on her son's body. She said: "Yes; there was a red rose stamped upon his side." Then Valentine said: "Orson must be your son; for he has a red rose on his side." The lady clasped her new-found sons to her heart. Then they all started towards her brother's court.

Her brother, King Pepin, was rejoiced to see her, and sent a messenger to her husband, who was Emperor of Greece. Her husband hastened to France with all his lords to take her back to Greece. They lived many happy years together in perfect love and peace. When they died, Sir Orson became Emperor of Greece. Sir Valentine stayed in France, and was King Pepin's heir.

THE TREASURES OF RHAMPSINITOS.

THERE was once a king of Egypt named Rhampsinitos who was very rich and very greedy. He compelled his people to give him a great deal of money. His house was full of gold, and his

servants brought him more gold every day. He had large jars filled with diamonds and other precious stones. He did not know where to put his gold, and he was afraid some person would rob him. He wanted to hide his treasures. He could not sleep at night for thinking about his riches. At last he sent for a mason. He told the mason to build a strong room without any windows. He wanted one door, fastened with strong iron bars and bolts. The mason built the room in a corner of the King's palace. When the room was finished, Rhampsinitos carried all his treasures to his strong room.

Around the walls of the room there were jars of diamonds, jars of rubies, and other precious stones. There was a great heap of gold coins in the middle of the room.

The King was very mean and did not pay the mason enough for his work. The mason marked two stones and put them loosely in the wall. He planned that he should go to the treasure room at night and steal the King's money. A short time after he had finished the room, he became very sick. He knew he was going to die. He had very little money to leave to his children. He had two sons. He called them to his bed, and told them about the marked stones. The mason died. His sons were very extravagant, and soon spent all the money they had received from their father. When their money was all gone, they went to the King's treasure room in order to get some more money. They found the marked stones, and removed them. They went into the room and filled their pockets with money. Then they put the stones back and returned home. They showed the gold to their mother. She was delighted. They went to the King's house many nights after that and got a great deal of gold.

Every day the King went to his treasure house. He saw that his piles of gold were getting smaller. He wondered how any thief could get into his strong room. He examined the bolts, and found them all right. Then he got a large trap and put it in his treasure house.

Soon after this, the mason's sons came again. The younger son went into the house first, and soon stepped into the trap. His

leg was terribly hurt, but he did not scream or make a noise. He was afraid King Rhampsinitos would hear him. He called to his brother, who was standing outside, and showed how he was caught. His brother tried to release him, but he could not. The younger son then said: "Make haste and cut off my head, and carry it away. You must do this; for if you do not cut off my head, the King will come and see who I am. Then he will cut off both our heads."

His brother was very sorry, but he knew it was best. So he cut off his head and took it home with him. When King Rhampsinitos came to look at his treasures, he was surprised to find the headless body of a man. He knew that two men had come, and that one had carried away the dead man's head. He thought the other man would come again and steal his money. So he made a plan to catch him. He ordered his servants to take the body out of the trap and hang it on the wall. He told the soldiers to watch, and if they saw anybody weeping near the body, to take him and bring him before the King.

When the mason's elder son came home, he told his mother what he had done. She was very angry and very sorry. She said he must go and get the body and bury it. She was more angry when the soldiers hung her younger son's body on the wall. She called her elder son and told him that he must get his brother's body, or she would tell the King who stole his money. At first, her son was greatly troubled. Then he thought of a plan by which he could get his brother's body.

He went out and got five asses. He put large leather sacks full of wine on their backs. Then he drove the asses to the wall on which his brother's body was hung. When he came near the wall, he loosened the strings that were around the mouths of the sacks. The wine began to trickle down on the ground. The mason's son began to scream and tear his hair. He ran about and pretended to be very much worried. The soldiers ran quickly to see what the matter was. They saw the wine, and as they were all very fond of wine, they got cups, and caught it and drank it. The mason's son pretended he was very angry. He scolded the

soldiers, and drove the asses away. The soldiers crowded around him and tried to soothe him. They talked and laughed and were very friendly with him.

By and by he gave the soldiers several bottles of wine, and they all became drunk and fell asleep. Then during the night the mason's son went quietly to the wall and took down his brother's body. No one saw him, for the soldiers were all sleeping soundly. He went to the drunken soldiers and shaved the whiskers off half of each one's face. He then returned home and gave his brother's body to his mother.

In the morning, the soldiers awoke and looked for the body, but it was gone. They then knew that the man had played a trick on them. They were badly scared, for they knew the King would be very angry. They started to the King's palace, to tell him about the body. As they were walking through the streets, the people laughed and made fun of them. When they told the King that the body had been stolen, he was disappointed. He said the thief was a very clever and cunning man.

He sent a herald all through the country, and told him to say that Rhampsinitos would not punish the man who stole his money. He said he would give the man his daughter for a wife, if he would tell him how he got into the treasure house. Then the mason's son went to King Rhampsinitos, and told him how he had gotten into the treasure house. The King said: "You are the cleverest man I know."

ARION AND THE DOLPHIN.

A LONG time ago a man named Arion lived in Corinth. Arion was a beautiful singer. He played on a golden harp. Men, women, boys and girls came to hear Arion sing. They gave him a great deal of money, and he became rich. Arion lived in the house of Periander. Periander was the ruler of Corinth. Arion thought he would like to travel and see new places. So he went on board a ship and sailed to a city named Taras where he played and

sang. The people all came out to hear him, and he received a great deal of money.

By and by Arion wished to see Corinth again and his friend Periander. So he went to the beach to find a ship. He said he wanted to go to Corinth. A ship from Corinth was lying on the beach, and the sailors said they would take him home in the ship. Arion promised to go home with them. He sent his harps, and all his boxes full of fine clothes and gold and silver, to the ship. When the sailors saw the boxes, they said to each other: "What a rich man Arion must be! Would it not be fine to have all this money?"

The next day Arion went down to the shore and got aboard the ship. It was a beautiful day. The sky was clear, and the air was cool. They sailed on for many days, and Arion thought they would soon reach Corinth. But the sailors in the ship were wicked men. They had determined to kill Arion and take all his gold and silver. One day, while Arion was sitting at the bow of the ship, four sailors came to him and told him they intended to kill him. Arion knew they wanted to kill him to get his money. He told them he would give them all his gold if they would spare his life. But the sailors refused to spare his life. Then he asked them to let him play on his golden harp and sing a song. He said when he finished the song he would leap into the sea. The sailors consented to let him play on his harp once more.

Arion put on a beautiful dress and began to sing. While he was singing the sailors began to feel sorry that they had determined to kill him. But they thought of the gold, and determined to make him jump into the sea. When he finished singing he jumped into the sea, and the sailors did not see him again. The ship went on towards Corinth, and the sailors were thinking how rich they were. They thought Arion was drowned.

But Arion was not drowned. A great fish, called a dolphin, was swimming by the ship when Arion leaped in. It caught him on its back and swam away with him towards Corinth. The dolphin went much faster than the ship, and soon reached Corinth with Arion. It swam to the shore, and Arion got off its back.

The dolphin then swam away again. Arion was very tired, and could hardly walk to the house of his friend, Periander. When he reached the house, he went into the great hall in which Periander was sitting. Periander was surprised to see Arion. He rose and came to meet him. He said: "What is the matter, Arion? Why are your clothes dripping wet? I thought you were coming to Corinth in a ship, but you look as if you had been in the sea. Did you swim to Corinth?" Then Arion told him about the wicked sailors and about the fish that had brought him to Corinth.

Periander did not believe Arion's story. He told his servants to give Arion all that he needed, and he told them to keep Arion till the ship in which he had left Taras came to Corinth. Two days afterwards Arion and Periander were standing together on the seashore. They saw a ship coming into the harbor. As it came nearer, Arion thought it looked much like his own ship. When he was able to see the colors on the prow of the ship, he knew it was his ship. Then he said to Periander: "They have come at last. Send for these sailors, and see whether I have not told you the truth." Periander sent down fifty soldiers with spears and shields, to bring up all the sailors.

As the ship was approaching the shore, the sailors looked at the beautiful city and thought of all the things they would buy with Arion's gold. They thought they would do nothing but eat, drink, and be merry. They saw the soldiers, but could not understand why they wanted them to go to Periander's house. Ten of the soldiers staid to guard the ship. The rest led the sailors to Periander's house. They went before Periander. He spoke kindly, and asked them where they had come from. They told him they had come from Taras. He then asked them if they had seen Arion. They said: "Yes, we can tell you all about Arion. We saw him in Taras. He was safe and well. The people of Taras have given him a great deal of money. They love to hear him sing, and would not let him come away till they can give him more money."

Just as they were telling this story, Arion opened the door and walked into the room. Periander turned to the sailors and

said: "Here is the man whom you tried to kill." He told them about the dolphin that brought Arion to Corinth. He gave Arion all his gold and his golden harp and took the sailors' ship from them. The soldiers drove the sailors through the streets and called the people to come and see the men who had tried to kill Arion. The people all came out of their houses and hooted at the sailors. The sailors hung their heads in shame.

Arion made a statue of a dolphin with a man on its back. He put the statue in the city, so that the people would not forget how the dolphin had saved him.

ALFRED THE GREAT.

ALFRED THE GREAT lived 1,000 years ago. His father's name was Ethelwolf. Ethelwolf was King of England. The people who lived in England then were called Saxons. The Saxon people were not so wise and rich then as the English people are now. Few of the people could read or write. The children did not go to schools, for there were none. Alfred had three brothers, all of them older than he was. Ethelwolf loved Alfred the best of all his sons. Alfred's education was much neglected while he was a boy. He spent his time in play, and in other childish amusements until he was twelve years old. One day Alfred heard his brother repeat a beautiful poem. He wished very much to read the poem. So he began to study. He studied very diligently, and his mother helped him. Soon he could read Saxon poems very well. He delighted to read and study, and he learned everything he could. He became very wise and clever. He was much wiser than his father or his brothers. Alfred was a Christian, and he always tried to do what was right.

At this time there lived in the north of Europe a people called Danes. The Danes were a rude and barbarous people. They were great sea robbers. They lived near the sea, east of England, and had many ships. They sailed about in their ships and robbed other people. While Alfred's father was King, many Danes came

to England. They robbed and burnt cities, and stole much money and many women and children. Then they hurried back to their boats and escaped. Ethelwolf did not fight the Danes much. Instead of fighting, he gave them money and bribed them to go away. When Ethelwolf died, Alfred's brother became King. Then the Danes became very bold and came to England in great numbers. They stole everything. They killed the cattle and drove away all the horses, and burned the houses. They killed many of the people, and drove the others away from their homes. The Saxons often bribed them to go away, but they would never stay away long. Alfred's brother fought the Danes, and tried to drive them away, but he was finally mortally wounded and died. Then Alfred became King.

The Danes were still very troublesome. Alfred collected an army and marched against the Danes. A battle was fought, and the Danes retreated. Alfred was very brave and active. He fought many battles in a year. He succeeded in making the Danes promise to stop fighting and live peaceably with the Saxons. But the Danes were very treacherous and deceitful, and they often broke their promise. At last, a great number of the Danes landed in England. They robbed and burned as they did before. Now the Saxon people became greatly discouraged. They thought it did no good trying to resist the Danes. So they deserted Alfred and submitted to the Danes. Alfred wished to keep on fighting the Danes, but he had no soldiers. The people would not listen to him, and left him alone. The Danes wished to capture Alfred, but he disguised himself as a peasant and hid. He lived for some time in the hut of a neat-herd. The neat-herd and his wife did not know he was their King, for he was disguised. One day, Alfred was sitting in the hut mending his bow and arrows. The wife of the neat-herd had some cakes baking on the fire. Wishing to go out for a while, she told Alfred to watch her cakes and not let them burn. Alfred said: "All right." But Alfred was very busy thinking over the troubles of his people, and how he would help them. He forgot all about the cakes, and they burned. When the woman came back she was very angry to see the black cakes. She scolded Alfred and called him a worthless fellow. She said that

he was always glad to eat the cakes, but he was too lazy to tend them.

Alfred was very sorry because the Danes were so treacherous and cruel. And he was very sorry because his people had so much trouble. He determined to help them again, if he could. He found a few friends, and they went into a great swamp to hide. There was some dry ground in the middle of the swamp. On this

ALFRED THE GREAT WATCHING THE CAKES

dry ground, Alfred and his friends built a fort. They collected provisions and arms and persuaded other men to join with them. Soon Alfred had a little army in the swamp. The Danes could not find him, and they thought he was dead. But Alfred and his soldiers watched the Danes. When the Danes were careless, Alfred would attack and kill many of them. Then he would return to the swamp again. The Danes were often much surprised, because they thought that the Saxons could not fight them any more.

A Prince named Guthrum was the leader of the Danes. He himself was a brave and honorable man. Still his people were cruel and unjust to the Saxons. At last the Saxons determined to fight for their freedom, and a great battle was fought. The Saxons were victorious, and they killed a great number of the Danes. Alfred hearing that his people were beginning to resist the enemy, gladly left the swamp and called the people together. The people were very glad to see Alfred and promised not to desert him again. So he was very much encouraged. Now, Alfred was very cautious. He thought it best not to be hasty. He wanted to know all about the Danes. He wanted to know how strong they were, also to know what they were doing and whether they were watchful or careless. So he disguised himself as a harper. He took his harp and went into the Danish camp. He played on the harp and sang songs for the Danes. They did not recognize him. They liked to hear his music. They treated him kindly and took him to Guthrum. Guthrum kept him several days. While Alfred was with the Danes, he was watchful and noticed everything. He noticed that they were very careless, and he saw that they were very confident. He heard them boast that they did not fear the Saxons. And he noticed all their weak places. Then Alfred slipped away from the Danish camp and returned to his own army. He sent word to all the English and invited them to help him to fight the Danes. They flocked to him in great numbers. They were delighted to see him, and they promised to follow him anywhere. Then Alfred attacked the Danes in the night, for he knew that they were always neglectful at night. The Danes were much surprised, for they had thought that there was no Saxon army. And they were astonished to hear Alfred's name shouted. They had thought that he was dead. The Saxons remembered how cruel the Danes had been to them, and wanted to be revenged. They fought furiously, and killed a great many of the Danes. At last the Danes began to retreat. Alfred followed them and finally surrounded them in a fort. The Danes in the fort could not get water or food, so at last Guthrum had to surrender to Alfred. Now Alfred could have put all of his enemies to death if he had

wished. But he was very generous and kind. He did not kill Guthrum and the other Danes, for he wished them to become his friends. He promised to give Guthrum his liberty, if the Danes would settle in England and obey his laws. Guthrum agreed to this. Then Alfred pardoned the Danes, and gave them lands. After this Guthrum and Alfred became very good friends.

Alfred became very popular among his people. They thought he was very wise and brave and good. The Danes feared Alfred, and they dared not annoy him. Alfred kept many soldiers ready to fight the Danes, if they should become troublesome again. He built many ships, so he could fight his enemies on the sea. He made roads and rebuilt the towns which the Danes had burned. He made good and just laws, and he was very strict in enforcing them. If any one killed or robbed, he was soon caught and punished. Thieves dared not steal, for they knew they would be caught. Gold chains and jewels could be hung upon the trees, and no one would touch them. The people did not lock up their houses at night or hide their money and jewels. Everything was safe while Alfred was King.

Alfred loved to read and study, and he encouraged his people to read and study also. He knew it would make them feel happier. He did many other things for the people, which made them love and respect him. Alfred died in the year 901. He had been King of England twenty-nine years. He is often called "Alfred the Great," because he was a brave general and a wise and just King.

THE NEW FOREST.

William the Conquerer was King of England. He was a gallant and wise soldier, but he was a proud, selfish man. He was very fond of war. When there was no war he passed his idle hours in hunting. There were a number of parks and forests in England in which he could hunt. But he was not satisfied with them. He wished for a larger forest than any he had. He wanted one near Winchester, which was his favorite city.

He decided to make a forest near Winchester. He took the land from the people and did not pay them for it. He drove many families from their homes, and tore the houses down. He destroyed several villages to get the land to make this forest. William also made some new and wicked laws. He forbade men to hunt in any of the forests. If any man was found hunting, he was punished. William was very fond of hunting the wild stag. One of his laws forbade a man killing a stag. Whoever killed a stag was punished by having his eyes put out.

God punished William for his cruelty. His son Richard was killed by a stag in the new forest, which gored him to death. William's grandson was also killed in this forest.

When William the Conqueror died, his son William became King. He was called William Rufus, because he had red hair. He was a bad, wicked King, and the people did not like him.

There was a hunting lodge in this forest. It was called Malwood Keep. Once King Rufus, his brother Henry, and a number of knights were hunting in the forest. They slept and ate at Malwood Keep. One night King Rufus had an awful dream. He awoke and shouted for lights. His servants hearing him, hurried to his room with lights. They found him pale and trembling. He became calm, but would not let the servants leave his bedside until morning.

The next day the hunting party were very merry, and King Rufus drank a great deal of wine. Just as he and his party were leaving Malwood Keep, a monk came up in great haste and asked to speak with the King. The monk told the King that another monk had a dream about him. He dreamed that King Rufus should come to a sudden death that day. King Rufus laughed at the monk and gave him some money. He told him to go home and tell the monk to have a better dream of him the next time.

Sir Walter Tyrrel was the favorite friend of King Rufus, and they hunted together all day. About sunset they were a little distance from each other, hidden in the bushes. A hart bounded between them. The King aimed an arrow at the hart, but as he was drawing his bow the string broke. The hart hearing a noise, stopped and peered about.

"Shoot, Walter!" cried the King. Sir Walter shot, but missed the hart, and the arrow pierced the bosom of the King and killed him. When Sir Walter found what he had done, he fled to the coast and embarked for Normandy without telling any one.

Late in the evening a poor man named Purkess was driving through the forest in his cart. The King's body lay where a church had stood. Seeing a corpse lying on the ground, he put it into his cart and took it to Winchester. There it lay covered with charcoal and blood until the next day, when it was buried. No one mourned for him. A year after, a tower fell with a crash and covered the King's grave with stones and dust.

BISHOP HATTO AND THE RATS.

THERE was a bishop named Hatto, who lived in a town in Germany. He was very rich, and he lived in a beautiful house. He had many pictures and a great deal of costly furniture in his house. He also had lands, and barns, and granaries. He raised a great deal of hay and grain on his lands, and his barns and granaries were full of hay and corn. He thus had provisions laid up for many years, and he thought he could eat, drink, and be merry. He thought if there should ever be a famine, he would be safe.

One summer it was very wet. It rained almost every day, and the ground was full of water. Vegetables and corn could not grow. The peasants could not work, and the crops were rotting in the fields. In the autumn the poor country people had nothing to eat. It had been so wet that nothing had grown, and the people were much distressed. They were afraid they would starve to death. Now, the people knew that Bishop Hatto was very rich, and that he had much food and corn laid up in his barns and granaries. Many poor people went to Bishop Hatto's door to beg for food. After a while they came to him in great numbers. At last the bishop became angry because so many people came to him. He told them that he would help them. He sent to all the

poor people in his neighborhood and invited them to come to his barn. He said he would divide the corn and provisions among them. The people were very glad, and they thought that the bishop was very kind. They came from far and near, and the great barn was crowded with women and children. Old men and young men were there too. When Bishop Hatto saw that no more could get into the barn, he fastened all the doors. Then he set fire to the barn, and burnt all the hay and corn and the people together.

The bishop was very hard-hearted. He laughed, and said that the barn made a very nice bonfire. He called the people rats and said they were good for nothing except to eat up the corn. He thought it was well to destroy them. Then he went to his beautiful house. He ate a hearty supper; then he retired and slept soundly. He did not think about the terrible sin that he had committed. But he never slept again after that.

In the morning, the bishop came downstairs into the hall. He had his own picture in a frame on the wall. Looking up at it, he was very much frightened and astonished to see that the rats had eaten it out of the frame. He stared at the empty frame, and trembled. Just then a man came running to him from his farm. The man looked frightened, and he told Bishop Hatto that he had opened his granaries that morning, only to find that the rats had eaten up all his corn. Another man came running to the bishop with face white with fear. He said: "Fly, my Lord Bishop; ten thousand rats are coming here. I pray the Lord to forgive you for burning the people yesterday."

Now, the bishop had a tower across the river Rhine. The walls of the tower were high, the banks of the river were steep, and the water was deep. He thought that the rats could not follow him there. So he hastened away to his tower on the Rhine. He closed all the doors and windows, and fastened them. He thought he would be safe, so he lay down to sleep. Soon he heard the cat mewing pitifully and yowling like mad. He was very much frightened, and he trembled with fear. He knew that the cat heard the rats coming. The rats had swum across the deep

river. They had climbed up the steep banks, and now they were climbing up the high walls of the tower. You could not count the rats. There were hundreds and thousands of them. The bishop could hear the rats snapping their teeth. He fell upon his knees and prayed. Still the army of rats came on. They came in at the windows. They came in at the doors. They came through the walls. They came down from the ceiling, and up through the floor. They came from the right and the left, from before and behind. All at once they rushed at the bishop kneeling on the floor. They bit his legs. They bit his arms. They bit his face, and bit his body. They killed the wicked bishop, and ate his flesh. They picked his bones and left them bare. So Bishop Hatto was punished for burning the innocent people in his barn.

ALI COGIA, A MERCHANT OF BAGDAD.

THERE lived in Bagdad a merchant named Ali Cogia. Ali Cogia was a bachelor. He had a comfortable home and was quite satisfied with it. But he happened to dream three nights in succession that an old man came to him. He thought the old man reprimanded him because he had never made a pilgrimage to Mecca. He thought it was his duty to go there. He was very much troubled, because he had failed to go. So he determined to go to Mecca. He sold his shop, his household goods, and nearly all of his merchandise. Having rented his house, he was ready to start.

He had a thousand pieces of gold that he did not want to carry with him. He thought it would be troublesome to carry and to take care of. He wanted only enough money with him to pay his expenses, so he decided to leave the thousand pieces of gold in Bagdad. He purchased a large stone jar and put this money in the bottom of it. He then filled the jar with olives. Having closed the mouth of the jar, he carried it to the house of a friend. This friend was a merchant, too. Ali Cogia said to him: "I am going to Mecca on a pilgrimage. Please take this jar of olives and keep

it for me until I return." The merchant kindly consented. He gave Ali Cogia the key of his warehouse and told him to put his jar there. He said: "You will find it there when you return."

In a few days, Ali Cogia started for Mecca. He had a camel loaded with merchandise, on which he rode. Arriving at Mecca, he visited the temple. It was the custom for all pilgrims to go to the temple to pray. After he had prayed in the temple, he began to sell the merchandise which he had brought with him on the camel.

Two merchants passed by while he was selling these things, and they stopped to admire them. One merchant said to the other: "These goods are very fine. If this merchant would take his goods to Cairo, he would get a great deal more money for them." They then went on.

Ali Cogia heard the strange merchant say this. He had often heard that Cairo was a beautiful place, and he concluded to go there to see it and sell his goods. He packed up his goods again and got ready. His friends with whom he had come, returned to Bagdad. Ali Cogia did not go back with them, but started instead for Cairo with his goods.

He soon reached the city. In a few days he had sold all his goods, and he got more money for them than he expected to get. He took this money and bought other goods, which he intended selling in Damascus. Reaching Damascus, he was much pleased with the place, because it was delightful and cool there. He staid at Damascus for a long time. He became acquainted with some Persian merchants. These merchants were very civil and agreeable to him. He meant to return to Bagdad at once, but these merchants persuaded him to go with them to a city called Schiras. They led him through a number of cities. Then they all went to India, where they staid for some time. Ali Cogia had been away from Bagdad for seven years, when at last he thought he would return to his old home.

Ali Cogia's friend waited and waited for him to return and claim the jar of olives which he had left in the warehouse. Still Ali Cogia did not come back. One evening as the merchant and

his family were at supper, they began to talk about olives. The merchant's wife said she had not tasted olives for a long time, and would like to have some to eat.

The merchant said: "Ali Cogia left a jar of olives in my warehouse seven years ago. Then he and a number of his friends went on a pilgrimage to Mecca. His friends returned, but he did not come with them. They said that he had gone to Cairo in Egypt. He has never returned, and I think he must be dead. We may eat the olives, if they are good, for I am sure he will never come for them. Give me a plate and candle. I will go and fetch some of them, and we will taste them."

His wife protested. She said: "Do not touch the olives, for Ali Cogia gave them to you to keep for him until he returned. You heard that he went to Egypt, but he may have gone farther. You did not hear that he was dead, and he may return to-morrow. If he should come, you could not restore him his jar of olives. I do not want the olives now, and I will not taste them. I do not think they are good now, for they have been kept so long. They must be mouldy and spoiled. It would not be honorable to take them, because they do not belong to us. Please do not touch them."

But the merchant would not listen to his wife. He was a very obstinate man. He got a candle and a plate and went into the warehouse. He opened the jar and found the olives very mouldy. Thinking the olives in the bottom of the jar might be good, he poured some of them into a dish. Then he shook the jar, and some of the gold which was in the bottom of the jar fell out.

The merchant was greatly surprised, for he had not thought that gold was in the jar. He now looked into the jar, and saw a great many gold coins still in it. He was an avaricious man and began to want the gold very much. He put the olives back into the jar on top of the money. He covered up the jar, and carried it to his wife. He said to her: "You are right; the olives are very mouldy. I put them back into the jar. If Ali Cogia returns he will not know that I opened them." He did not tell his wife about the gold which was in the jar. He determined to take this gold later and use it.

He did not sleep any that night, but lay awake in bed thinking what to do. In the morning he went out and bought some fresh olives. He returned home with them, but he did not let his wife see them. He took the old olives and the gold out of the jar. Then he filled the jar with the new olives. Finally he covered up the jar and put it in the same place where Ali Cogia left it.

In about a month Ali Cogia returned to Bagdad. He went to an inn and staid the first night. The next morning, he went to his

HE POURED SOME OF THEM INTO A DISH

friend the merchant's house, to visit him. The merchant appeared delighted to see him. He told Ali Cogia that he had begun to think he was dead.

After awhile Ali Cogia asked the merchant for his jar of olives. The merchant gave him the key of his warehouse. He told him that he would find the olives there.

Ali Cogia went into the merchant's warehouse. He took the jar and returned to the merchant's house. He gave him the key and thanked him for taking care of the jar. He returned to the

inn with the jar. He opened the jar and put his hand far down into it, but he could not find his gold. He poured out the olives, but still he could not find his gold among them. He was exceedingly astonished. He immediately suspected his friend of having stolen it. He was dreadfully alarmed, and returned at once to the merchant's house. He said: "Do not be surprised to see me so soon again. The jar of olives which I left with you contained a thousand pieces of gold. I cannot find them in the jar which you gave me. Did you take them to use for a time? If so, I am very willing to lend you the money. But please tell me if you used the money. Then I will not be troubled about it, and you can pay me whenever you want to."

The merchant had expected that Ali Cogia would ask for his gold, and he had thought about what he would tell him. He now said: "You brought me the jar of olives. I gave you the key of my warehouse, and you carried the jar there and put it away. You told me that there were olives in the jar, and I believed you. I did not touch the jar while you were away. You returned to my house. I gave you the key of my warehouse again, and you went there and found the olives where you left them seven years ago. If you put gold in the jar, you should have found it. I know nothing about your money."

Ali Cogia was much astonished to hear the merchant deny touching the money, for he knew the merchant had taken it. He said: " I love peace and quietness. I do not wish to quarrel with you, but I want my money."

The merchant then said: "Ali Cogia, you left a jar of olives with me, and you have taken it away. Now you come and ask me for a thousand pieces of gold. Did you ever tell me that you put money in that jar? I did not know there were olives in the jar, because you never showed them to me. I suppose you will soon ask me for diamonds, and pearls, instead of gold. Leave my shop, and do not bother me about your money."

A great number of persons heard Ali Cogia and the merchant quarrelling. They came to the merchant's door to see what the matter was. Other merchants came out of their shops. Ali

Cogia told them about the jar of olives and his money. The merchant acknowledged that he had kept the jar of olives in his warehouse, but he denied that he had ever meddled with it. He swore that he had never seen the olives.

Ali Cogia then asked the merchant to go with him to the Cadi, and let the Cadi decide. The merchant had to consent, for he was afraid he would be called a coward if he refused.

Ali Cogia and the merchant went to the Cadi. Ali Cogia accused the merchant of stealing his thousand pieces of gold which he had left in the merchant's warehouse. The Cadi asked Ali Cogia if any one saw him give the gold to the merchant. Ali Cogia said that he had always believed that his friend was an honest man, and so he did not take any one with him to the merchant's house. The merchant said: "He brought me the jar of olives. He asked me to keep them for him until he returned to Bagdad. I gave him the key of my warehouse. He carried the jar to the warehouse and left it there. He told me there were olives in the jar, and I believed him. I did not touch the jar while he was away. In seven years he returned to my house. I gave him the key of my warehouse again, and he went there and found the olives where he had left them. I swear that I never saw the olives or touched them."

The Cadi listened to the stories of Ali Cogia and the merchant, and when the merchant swore that he did not know the money was in the jar, he dismissed him acquitted.

Ali Cogia was not willing thus to lose his money. He said the Cadi was not just. He determined to go to the Caliph Haroun Alraschid. He believed the Caliph would be more just. So he drew up a petition to present to him. When he finished it, he went into the street to wait for the Caliph. In a little while, the Caliph was returning from prayers, and one of his officers was riding before him. They were soon close to Ali Cogia. Ali Cogia handed the petition to the officer to give to the Caliph. He knew the Caliph would read it as soon as he reached the palace, and he followed them. He went into the court to wait. He knew the

officer would return as soon as he had read the petition to the Caliph.

The officer soon returned to the court. He told Ali Cogia to return the next day, and the Caliph would hear his story. He asked Ali Cogia where the merchant lived, and Ali Cogia told him. He sent for the merchant to appear before the Caliph the next day. Ali Cogia then returned home.

That evening the Caliph and the grand vizier were riding through the town. They were disguised. While passing along, the Caliph heard a noise. He wanted to see what caused it. He hurried to a gate which led into a little court. It was moonlight, and he could see plainly. He looked through a hole in the fence and saw ten or twelve children playing in the court. The Caliph wanted to hear what they were saying, so he sat down on a stone bench by the fence. He now could see the children and hear all that they said.

One of the children said: "Let us play Cadi. I will be the Cadi; and you can bring Ali Cogia and the merchant who cheated him before me." The others agreed.

The Caliph was much interested now. He had to decide the case between Ali Cogia and the merchant the next day. He thought he would like to see how the children decided it, so he listened to them very attentively.

One of the children pretended he was the Cadi. Another pretended he was an officer of the court. Another was Ali Cogia; and a fourth was the merchant. The pretended Cadi said to the feigned Ali Cogia: "What did this merchant do?"

Ali Cogia told the Cadi all about his money, and asked him to get it back for him from the merchant.

Then the feigned Cadi turned to the merchant. He asked the merchant why he did not return Ali Cogia's money to him. The merchant denied taking the money. He said he did not know that there was money in the jar. He declared that he had not touched the jar while Ali Cogia was absent, and when Ali Cogia returned, the jar was taken from his warehouse. He offered to swear that what he said was true.

The pretended Cadi said: "Before you swear this, I want to see the jar of olives." He then turned to Ali Cogia and asked him if he had brought the jar of olives with him. Ali Cogia said: "No; I did not bring it with me." The Cadi sent him for it. When he returned he gave the jar to the Cadi. The Cadi asked the merchant if it were the same jar. The merchant was silent. The Cadi ordered the jar to be opened.

One of the children pretended to be opening a jar. The pretended Cadi tasted the olives. He said: "These olives are very good. I do not think olives will keep for seven years and be so good. Send for some olive merchants, for they will know all about the olives."

Then two boys who pretended they were olive merchants came to the Cadi. The olive merchants examined the olives, and they said the olives were new and good.

The Cadi said: "You are mistaken. Ali Cogia says he put them into the jar seven years ago."

The olive merchants said: "Olives will not keep seven years, but they will keep for two years. After that they have neither taste nor color. The olives which are in this jar certainly grew this year. Any merchant in Bagdad will say the same about them."

The Cadi was satisfied. He declared that the merchant was a thief and ordered his men to take him away and hang him.

Then the children stopped playing. They clapped their hands with joy. They seized the feigned merchant and took him away and pretended they were going to hang him.

When the children went away the Caliph left the bench. He was much pleased with the children's just decision. The grand vizier had heard all the children had said. He was standing near the Caliph, and he, too, was both surprised and pleased.

The Caliph said to the grand vizier: "I have to decide this case between Ali Cogia and the merchant to-morrow. I do not think I could give a more just decision than this boy did. Bring this boy to me to-morrow and I will let him try this case for me. Tell the Cadi who acquitted the merchant to come to the court, for

I want him to learn his duty from this boy. Tell Ali Cogia to bring his jar of olives with him, and be sure to have two olive merchants there."

The Caliph rode around the streets for awhile, and then returned home.

The next day the grand vizier went to see the mother of the boy who had been playing Cadi in the yard. He asked her if she had any children. She said she had three sons, and went and called them. When they came into the house the grand vizier said: "Which of you was the Cadi when you played together last night?" The eldest boy said he was the one. The grand vizier said to him: "Come with me; the Caliph, Haroun Alraschid, wants to see you."

The mother was much frightened, for she feared the Caliph meant to harm her son. She asked the grand vizier what the Caliph wanted. The grand vizier said: "The Caliph will not harm him. I will bring him back in an hour. Then the boy can tell you himself."

The mother was satisfied. She got her son ready and allowed him to go with the grand vizier. The grand vizier then conducted the boy to the Caliph. The boy was somewhat frightened and bashful at first, but the Caliph talked kindly to him, and said: "Come and sit down by me. You shall see the true Ali Cogia, and the true merchant." And he placed the boy beside him.

Then the Caliph sent for Ali Cogia and the merchant. They came up to the throne, and bowed very low before the Caliph. The Caliph said to them: "Tell your stories to this child. He will hear you and do you justice. If he is wrong, I will assist him."

Ali Cogia and the merchant then told their stories. When they had finished, the child said: "Let us see the jar of olives." Ali Cogia presented the jar, placed it at the Caliph's feet, and opened it. The Caliph looked at the olives, and took one and tasted it. He then called the olive merchants to him. He told them to examine the olives and tell him if they were seven years old. The olive merchants did so, and said they were new olives. The boy said to them: "Are you not mistaken? Ali Cogia says

that he put them up seven years ago." The olive merchants said: "Olives will not keep seven years. After the second year they are not good to eat. These olives are fresh and good, and they certainly grew this year."

The Caliph was now fully satisfied that the merchant had stolen Ali Cogia's money. And the merchant knew it was no use to deny any longer taking the money. He told Ali Cogia where he had hidden it. Then the Caliph ordered his servants to take the merchant away and hang him, and they did so.

Haroun Alraschid then turned to the Cadi. He told him to learn from this child how to do his duty better, and dismissed him. He praised the boy for his sagacity, then gave him a purse of a hundred pieces of gold, and sent him home.

THE FOX'S BRUSH.

Once upon a time a king of the East had a beautiful garden. An apple tree stood in this garden, and golden apples grew on it. The king feared the apples would be stolen, and he had a servant count them every night. When they became ripe one of the golden apples was stolen every night. The king was very angry at this, and he told the gardener to watch under the tree all night.

The gardener told his eldest son to watch. About twelve o'clock he fell asleep. In the morning another apple was missing. Then the gardener told his second son to watch the apples. At midnight, he, too, fell asleep. In the morning another apple was gone. Then the gardener's third son offered to keep watch. At first, the gardener refused to let him. He feared some harm might happen to him. However, he consented, and the young man lay down under the tree to watch. When the clock struck twelve, he heard a noise in the air. He looked up and saw a beautiful bird sitting upon a limb of the tree. The bird's feathers were pure gold. It bit at one of the apples with its beak. The gardener's son jumped up, and shot an arrow at it. The arrow did the bird no harm, but the bird dropped a golden feather from its tail and flew away.

In the morning, he took the golden feather to the king. The king called all his court together and showed them the feather. Every one agreed that it was worth more than all the kingdom. But the king said: "One feather is of no use to me; I must and will have the whole bird."

Then the gardener's eldest son went out to find this golden bird. He thought he could find it very easily. When he had walked a short distance, he came to a wood. He saw a fox sitting by the side of the wood. He took his bow and made ready to shoot at the fox. The fox saw the boy aiming at it. It did not wish to be shot, and cried out: "Do not shoot me; I can tell you where to find the golden bird. This evening, you will reach a village. In this village you will see two inns, built one on each side of the street. The inn standing on the right hand is beautiful and pleasant to look at, but do not go in there. The other inn looks poor and mean. Go into that one, and stay all night." The man said to himself: "What can a fox know about these inns?" He shot an arrow at the fox, but missed it. The fox laughed at him, and, turning tail, it ran into the wood.

The young man went on his way, and in the evening he came to the village in which the two inns were. In the beautiful inn, the people were singing, and dancing, and feasting. The other looked dirty and poor. The man said: "I should be very silly to go to that poorly kept house." He went into the nice house, and ate and drank. He staid there and forgot all about the bird and his home.

The gardener waited a long time for his eldest son to come back, but he did not come. Then he sent his second son to find the bird. The second son met the fox sitting by the road-side. The fox told him the same thing that he had told his brother. When he came to the village, he saw his brother standing at the window of the nice house. His brother told him to come in. They were having a merry time, and the second son could not resist the temptation. He went into the nice looking inn, and forgot about the golden bird and his home.

The father waited a long time for the second son, but he did

not return. Then the youngest son wished to search for the golden bird. At first, he would not let him go. He was afraid something might hinder his coming back also. However, he finally agreed to let him go.

The youngest son started on the same road his brothers had travelled. When he came to the wood, he met the fox. The fox told him the same thing about the two inns that he had told his brothers. He was grateful to the fox. He did not shoot at it as his brothers had done. Then the fox said: "Sit upon my tail, and you will travel fast." He sat on the fox's tail, and the fox began to run. Away they went over the fields.

When they came to the village, the young man went to the shabby inn. He staid at the inn all night. In the morning, the fox came to him again. The fox told him to go straight forward until he came to a castle. There he would find a troop of soldiers lying before the castle fast asleep and snoring. The fox said: "Do not notice the soldiers. Go into the castle, and walk on and on till you come to a room. In this room sits the golden bird in a wooden cage. There is a golden cage standing beside the wooden cage. Do not take the bird out of the wooden cage and put it into the golden cage. If you do, you will be sorry for it."

When he arrived at the castle, he found all things just as the fox had told him. And beside the golden cage there were three golden apples lying. The bird had brought the apples from the tree in the king's garden. But he did not obey the fox. He took the bird out of the wooden cage, and put it into the golden cage. The bird screamed loudly, and awoke all the soldiers. They caught the boy and took him to their king.

The next morning the court met. It decided that the boy should die, unless he should bring the king a golden horse. If he brought the golden horse to the king, he was to get the golden bird.

So the boy set out again on his journey. He was in great despair. He met his friend, the fox, taking his morning's walk. The fox said: "See now what has happened because you did not obey me. I will, however, tell you how to find the golden horse, if you will obey me. You must go to yonder castle, where the

golden horse stands in his stall. He has an old leather saddle on his back. A golden saddle is hanging near. The groom is lying beside the horse fast asleep and snoring. Lead the horse out quietly. Let the old leather saddle stay on his back." Then the young man sat on the fox's tail, and away they went to the castle.

He went to the stable. Here the groom lay snoring, with his hand upon the golden saddle. Soldiers guarded the stable. He looked at the old leather saddle. He thought it a great pity to keep it, and he picked up the golden saddle. Immediately, the groom awoke and screamed. The soldiers ran in and captured the boy. In the morning, he was brought before the king's court, and again it was decided he must die. But the court agreed to pardon him if he could bring a beautiful princess to the king.

Then he went away again very sorrowful. The old fox met him on the road. The fox said: "Why did you not obey me? If you had obeyed me, you would have carried away both the golden bird and horse. Yet I will tell you where to find the princess. Go straight on, and in the evening you will come to a castle. At twelve o'clock every night the princess goes to the bath. When she passes you on the road, kiss her. Then she will let you lead her away. But do not let her go back to the castle to tell her father and mother." Then the fox stretched out his tail, and away they went.

They arrived at the castle. At twelve o'clock he met the princess going to the bath. He kissed her, and she consented to run away with him. She begged him to let her go and tell her parents. At first he said: "No!" She wept more and more, and at last he yielded. She went back to the castle. The guards awoke, and the boy was caught again. He was brought before the king who lived in the castle. The king said: "You shall never marry my daughter unless you dig away that hill in front of the castle." The hill was very large, and he could not dig it away in a hundred years. He worked for seven days, but had very little done. Then the fox said: "You lie down and go to sleep. I will work for you." In the morning he awoke, and the hill was gone.

He went to the king and told him, now the hill was gone, he

must give him the princess. The king was obliged to keep his promise. He gave the princess to the young man, and away they went. But they met the fox, who said: "You must now get the horse and the bird." The young man said: "I cannot get them." The fox said: "You can, if you obey me. When you come to the king of the castle in which the golden horse is, the king will ask for the princess. You must say: 'Here she is!' Then the king will be glad to see her. He will run to welcome her. Then you mount the golden horse, and put out your hand to shake hands with them. But shake hands with the princess last. As you take her hand, lift her quickly on to the horse behind you. Then spur your horse and gallop away as fast as you can to the castle where the bird is."

Then the fox said: "When you come to the castle, I will stay with the princess at the door while you ride in and show the horse to the king. Then he will keep his promise, and bring out the bird. You must not get off the horse. You must sit still, and ask the king to let you see the bird. When you get the bird in your hand, start your horse, and ride away as fast as you can."

The princess mounted the horse again, and they carried off the bird. They rode till they came to a great wood. In the wood they met the fox again. The fox said: "Pray kill me; cut off my head and brush!" The young man refused to kill the fox. Then the fox said: "Beware of two things: pardon no person from the gallows, and do not sit down by the side of a brook." Then the fox went away. The young man said: "It is easy to obey that advice."

Then he rode on with the princess. At last they came to the village in which his two brothers were. He heard a great noise in the village, and he asked what the matter was. The people said: "Two bad men are going to be hanged." When he reached the village, he saw that the two men were his brothers, who had become robbers. When he saw his brothers, he cried out: "Can nothing save them?" The people said: "Yes; if you give all your money to us, we will free your brothers." He paid the money, and his brothers were delivered from death on the gallows. He

HE GAVE THE PRINCESS TO THE YOUNG MAN AND AWAY THEY WENT

forgot what the fox had told him. His brothers went with him towards their father's home.

Now it was a very hot day when they came to the wood. It was in the woods where the fox first met them. A brook ran through the woods. It was cool under the trees by the brook, and they all sat down by the brook. The two elder brothers took their youngest brother and threw him into the brook. Then they took the princess, the horse, and the bird, and went to the king. They told the king they had taken them by their own skill and strength. Then the king gave a great feast. But the horse would not eat, the bird would not sing, and the princess sat by herself and wept bitterly.

The youngest son was not drowned. But the bank was very steep, and he could not climb up it. He did not know what to do. Just then, he saw the fox standing on the top of the bank. The fox said: "I will help you out. Take hold of my brush, and I will pull you out. If you go back home, your brothers will kill you." Then the fox pulled him out of the brook. He disguised himself as a poor piper. He went to the king's court. When he went in the gate, immediately the horse began to eat, the bird began to sing, and the princess stopped crying. The king was very angry with the two brothers when he heard what they had done, and he caused them to be punished. Then the youngest son married the princess. After the king's death, he was chosen king.

One day he went walking in the wood. He met the old fox once more. The fox pleaded with him to cut off its head and brush. At last he consented, and he cut off its head and brush. Immediately the fox was changed into a prince. He went home with the king, and the princess recognized him as her brother, who had been lost for many years. A fairy had stolen him and changed him into a fox. The fairy said he would change back into a boy again, if any person would steal the golden bird, and cut off his head and brush.

"WHERE there is a will, there is a way."

THE SIEGE OF TROY.

GREECE is a country in Europe. The people who lived in Greece are called Greeks. Many, many years ago the Greeks were not taught about God. They guessed and imagined a great deal. They thought there were many gods. They talked about the sky, sun, moon, stars, and clouds, as if they were real beings. The Greeks thought there were twelve greater gods and goddesses. They thought that the gods and goddesses lived on Mount Olympus. Many people thought that the top of Olympus went up into the sky. The Greeks thought that Jupiter was the chief of the gods. They thought that he was a very strong, grand looking man, with thick hair and beard. They also thought that he held lightnings or thunderbolts in his hands. These thunderbolts were forged by his son Vulcan. Vulcan was an ugly, crooked man. He was the god of fire and the forge. Neptune was the god of the ocean, and Pluto was the lord of the spirits of the dead. Apollo was the god of light, or the day. Mercury was the messenger of the gods. He had wings on his cap and on his sandals, and he was very swift. Mercury was the god of flattery and of thieves. Juno was Jupiter's wife. She was goddess of heaven or the air. Juno was a very dignified person. Pallas was the goddess of spinning, weaving, sewing, and other woman's works. She was wise, brave, and strong. Venus was the goddess of love and pleasure. She was very graceful and fair.

All the greater gods had palaces on Olympus. They met every day in Jupiter's hall to feast on ambrosia. Ambrosia was a sweet kind of food. The gods and the people who ate ambrosia would never die, for it made them immortal. The drink of the gods was nectar, and it was very sweet and delicious. Besides this the gods were thought to feed on the smoke and smell of sacrifices offered up to them by the people on the earth. The Greeks did many things which they thought would please the gods. They built handsome temples to them, and made beautiful statues in their honor. And they always asked the gods to help them in battle, and to make them prosperous in peace. The Greeks were

a very brave people, and there were many heroes among them. These heroes made a vow that, if any Greek king got into trouble they would all help him out.

There was a people east of Greece, near the Ægean Sea, called the Trojans. Their chief city was Troy, with a citadel called Ilium. Troy was a very strong city. It had high stone walls around it. It was said that these walls had been built by Neptune and Apollo. There was an image of Pallas in the citadel. It was called the Palladium. As long as the Palladium was within the walls, Troy could not be conquered. The King of Troy was Priam and his wife was Hecuba. They had nineteen children. Paris was the eldest son. He was a worthless and pleasure-loving fellow. He often tended flocks of sheep on Mount Ida, near the city. The second son was Hector. He was a noble, generous man.

Now I will tell you how the siege of Troy happened. Ate was the goddess of strife. She wished to cause mischief. She threw down among the gods and goddesses a golden apple. These words were engraved upon it: "This apple to the Fair." The three goddesses, Juno, Pallas, and Venus, each thought the apple was meant for her. Each thought that she was fairer than the others. So they quarrelled about the golden apple. They would not let any of the gods decide who should have the apple. They thought the gods would not be just. They determined that only Paris, the son of Priam, should decide for them. Each goddess tried to tempt Paris, by promises, to give her the apple. Juno promised to make him a mighty king. Pallas promised to make him the wisest of men. Venus said that she would give him the fairest woman on earth for his wife. So Paris gave the golden apple to Venus. This made Juno and Pallas very angry, and they became the enemies of Paris and his people.

After this Venus told Paris to build a ship and go to visit the Greek kings. Paris did so, and the kings of Greece treated him very kindly. They showed him much honor and respect. There was a city called Sparta, of which Menelaus was the king. His wife's name was Helen. She was the fairest of women. Paris visited Sparta, and Menelaus treated him with much honor.

Menelaus was kind to Paris, but Paris was mean and treacherous. While Menelaus was away from home, Paris stole Helen and carried her off to Troy to be his wife. As soon as Menelaus returned home, he found that Paris had deceived him and stolen his wife. He was very angry, and he determined to have vengeance on Paris. He sent to all the Greek heroes and reminded them of their vow. He asked them to help him recover his wife. Every one was ready to help Menelaus except Ulysses. Ulysses was the wisest of men. He was king of a small island called Ithaca. He knew that the war with the Trojans would be long and terrible, and he did not wish to leave his home and his fair young wife, Penelope. He pretended to be crazy. He began furiously to plough the sea-shore with a yoke of oxen. However, the next wisest man was Palamedes. He did not believe that Ulysses was mad. He wanted to prove him. He took Ulysses' little son and put him in the way of the plough. Ulysses turned the plough aside from the child. Then they knew that his madness was not real. So he was obliged to go with them.

There was another Greek hero, named Achilles. He was young, brave, and beautiful. His mother knew that, if he went to Troy, he would die there. So she dressed him as a maiden and sent him to the king of Scyros. Achilles was glad to stay with the king of Scyros. He fell in love with one of the king's daughters. Now an augur told the Greeks that Troy could never be taken unless Achilles went with them. So the Greeks began to search for him. Ulysses guessed where he was, and went to the palace of Scyros. He saw Achilles dressed as a maiden. He told him about the great war that was beginning. Then Achilles threw off the woman's dress and put on his armor. He was eager to go and fight with the Greeks.

Great numbers of the Greeks were now collected, and they were all eager to go to battle. Agamemnon, Menelaus' brother, was the leader of them all. Before they set out they made sacrifices to Jupiter and asked the gods to help them. While they were sacrificing, a snake crawled up a tree to a sparrow's nest. It ate up all the eight young ones. Then it ate up the mother bird. The

augurs saw this, and they foretold that the war would last nine years, when Troy would be taken. This did not discourage the Greeks, and they sailed toward the Trojan country. At last the Greeks reached the coast of Troy. The augurs had declared that the first man who touched the shore would be the first to die. When the ships came to the land, Achilles threw his shield out first. Then he leaped out upon it. Protesilaus did not throw his shield, but sprang out upon the land. He was instantly slain by the Trojans. When his wife, Laodamia, heard of his death, she grieved and pined very piteously. Protesilaus' spirit could not rest because Laodamia grieved so. Then Mercury let him come back and stay three hours with her on earth. He came back and Laodamia tried to embrace him. Then she found that he was only thin air and could not be grasped. When the three hours were over, he vanished from her sight. Then Laodamia made an image of him. She treated it as a god. Her father forbade her to do this. Then she leaped into the fire and perished.

The chiefs of the Greeks were Agamemnon, Menelaus, and Achilles. The men of Achilles were called Myrmidons. It was said that they had descended from ants. Achilles had a good friend named Patroclus, who was a great warrior. He was wise, brave, and strong. Ajax was the biggest and strongest man. The wisest men were Ulysses and Palamedes. The Greeks fought with swords and spears. And some used bows and arrows. The chiefs went to battle in chariots. The chariots were drawn by two horses. The chiefs stood up in the chariots and threw spears against the enemy. During eight years the Greeks overran the Trojan country. They captured cities and drove the people away from their homes. Finally the people went into Troy for safety. In the ninth year the Greeks surrounded Troy. But the Trojans resisted their attacks successfully, for the image of Pallas was still in the citadel. During the war some beautiful maidens had been captured. One of these maidens had been given to Achilles. After a while Agamemnon took her from him. This made Achilles very angry. He took his men, the Myrmidons, and determined to fight for the Greeks no more.

The Trojans came out to fight the Greeks. King Priam made Helen sit with him on the wall over the gate. He made her tell him who all the chief Greeks were. Now, many Greeks and Trojans did not want to fight each other. They had nothing to do with the quarrel. It was very wrong to cause the death of so many for Paris' fault. So it was agreed that Menelaus and Paris should fight together by themselves for Helen. They began to fight alone. Then Venus saw that Paris was in danger. So she came in a cloud and carried him away. She set him down in Helen's chamber. Here he was out of danger. He liked to lie and look at Helen while others were fighting for him. At last Hector came and found him there with Helen. He was very angry. He said that Paris was mean and cowardly because he did not go out and fight. He said that many better men than Paris were dying for his crime. Hector was not like Paris. He loved his wife and child, but he parted from them and went out to fight. Many Greeks were killed by Hector, for he was strong and valiant.

The Trojans defeated the Greeks every day. Some of the gods and goddesses helped the Greeks and some helped the Trojans. Sometimes Jupiter would not let the gods and goddesses interfere. Sometimes he let them go down and fight for their own parties. Jupiter himself was impartial. But one day Juno lulled him to sleep. While Jupiter slept the Greeks had much success. But when he awoke the Trojans were most successful. Nearly all the Greek heroes were killed or wounded. Hector and his men broke through their ranks. They were going to burn the Greek ships. Now Patroclus grieved much, because many of his friends were wounded. So he went to Achilles and begged him to send out the Myrmidons to battle. Patroclus wanted to save the ships. Achilles consented. He dressed Patroclus in his own armor. Then Patroclus led the Myrmidons against the Trojans. The Myrmidons had not been fighting for a long time, and they were fresh and strong. The Trojans could not resist them. They fled back into the walls of Troy. Patroclus followed them closely. But Hector stopped Patroclus and fought with him. Now Apollo

loved Troy because he had built the walls. He caused a sunbeam to strike on Patroclus and make him faint. Then Hector struck him down and killed him. Then there was a fierce fight over his body. The Trojans got the armor, but the Greeks saved the corpse. Again many Trojans came upon them, and almost overcame them. Then Achilles heard the noise. He came out all unarmed. He gave a terrible thundering shout. This frightened the Trojans, and they fled in confusion. The corpse of Patroclus was carried into the tent. Achilles mourned over it and vowed vengeance against Hector. His mother came and wept with him. Then she went to Vulcan and obtained another beautiful suit of armor for Achilles. Achilles went to battle in his new armor. He drove the Trojans before him, for nothing could resist his might. He came up with Hector. He chased him round and round the walls of Troy. At last he came up with him and slew him. The body of Patroclus was laid on a costly funeral pile. Then Achilles fastened Hector's body to the back of his chariot, and dragged it three times around the funeral pile of his friend. He also had games of racing, boxing, wrestling, and throwing of stones in honor of his friend. He gave costly presents to those who excelled.

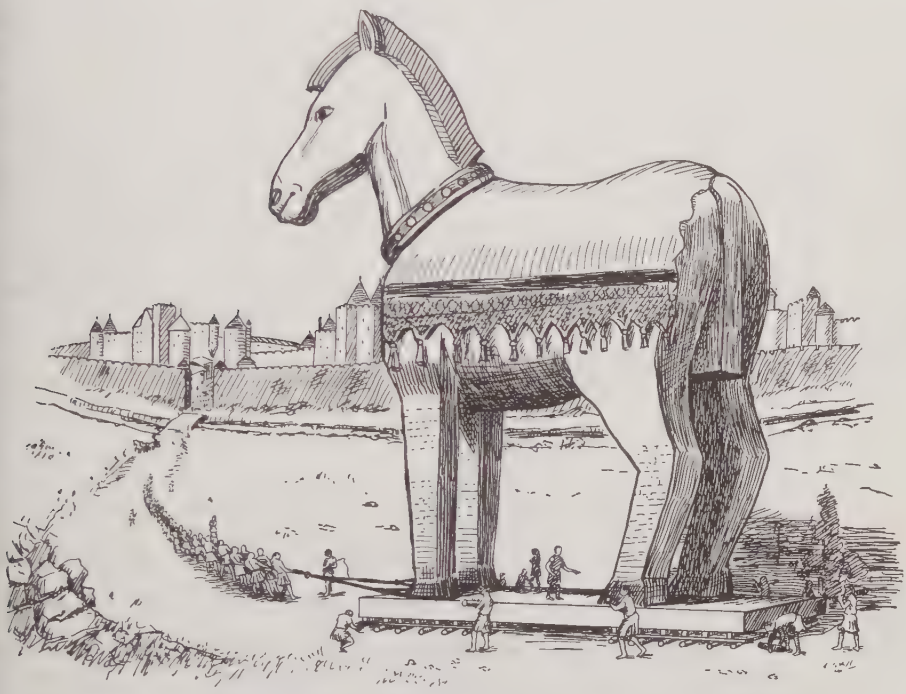
But poor old Priam grieved for his son, Hector. He grieved that Hector's corpse should lie unburied, and he could not rest. So he went out at night in disguise. He went to Achilles and begged the body of Hector. Achilles received Priam most kindly. He wept for the poor old king, and gave him food and warmed him. Then he sent home the body of Hector with honors.

After this Achilles performed many wonderful deeds in battle. He could not be wounded in any part of the body except in the heel. Apollo helped Paris to shoot an arrow into Achilles' heel. So the hero died. Then there was another great fight over the body. But at last Ajax and Ulysses rescued it. Ajax carried it to the ships, Ulysses kept back the Trojans. Thetis, Achilles' mother, and many others came and mourned for him. All the Greeks grieved much for his loss. They thought they had none so good as Achilles. Achilles' body was burned on a funeral pile.

The Greeks raised a great mound in his honor. Thetis promised to give Achilles' armor to the one who had done the most to rescue his corpse. Ajax and Ulysses both claimed the armor. Each thought he had done the most to rescue the body. At last it was determined to give the armor to Ulysses. Then Ajax was much disappointed and grieved. He became crazy, and fancied the cattle were the Greeks who slighted him. He killed great numbers of cattle in his rage. Then when he saw what he had done, he fell on his own sword and died.

Now when the Greeks had lost these great heroes, they sent for Achilles' young son, Pyrrhus. They also sent for a man named Philoctetes, who had the arrows of Hercules. Soon after Philoctetes came, he shot Paris with one of the arrows. Now, although Paris was dead, the war did not cease. The Trojans would not give up Helen. Paris' brothers, Deiphobus and Helenus, quarrelled about her. Each wanted to marry her. At last she was given to Deiphobus. Then Helenus was very angry, and he went out and wandered about the forest of Mount Ida. There he was taken prisoner by Ulysses. Ulysses asked him many questions about Troy. At last Helenus told Ulysses that Troy could never be taken while the Palladium was within it. Then Ulysses and Diomed left the Greek camp. They climbed over the wall at night and stole the image of Pallas. In the morning, the Trojans missed the Palladium. They were greatly dismayed, for they knew that the Greeks would now be successful. While the Trojans were thus in much trouble, the Greeks seemed to have changed their minds. They had left the walls of Troy and gone away. The Trojans were overjoyed. They rushed out of the city, and ran to the sea shore. They saw no Greeks, but they found a monstrous wooden horse. It was as high as a house. The Trojans looked at it in wonder. Then a Greek came out of the rocks near by. He told them that his name was Sinon. He said that the Greeks had cruelly left him behind. He said that they had become weary of the siege and gone home. He also told them that, if they took the wooden horse into Troy at once, it would do for another Palladium. Now there was a priest of Nep-

une, named Laocoon. He did not believe Sinon. He said that ie was a spy. He advised the Trojans not to take the wooden iorse into the city. Just then two enormous serpents came out f the sea. They attacked Laocoon and his two sons. They coiled round them, and killed them, and devoured them. When the Trojans saw this, they thought that Laocoon was punished by the gods. They thought he was very wicked to talk against the



THEY HARNESSED THEMSELVES TO IT AND BEGAN TO DRAG IT INTO THE CITY

vooden horse. They thought that the gods had sent it instead of he Palladium. So they harnessed themselves to it and began to drag it into the city. Cassandra, the daughter of Priam, could prophesy. She was filled with grief. She did not want the Trojans to take the horse into Troy. She thought it was a trick of the Greeks. She shrieked, and screamed, and pulled her hair. But no one paid any attention to her, and at last the wooden horse was within the walls. The Trojans dedicated it to Pallas with a great feast.

After the feast the Trojans departed to their homes. They left the wooden horse alone in the darkness and stillness of night. They thought that all was safe, but now their doom was near. The wooden horse was full of Greeks. At night Sinon lighted a beacon. It was for a signal to the other Greeks, who had not gone far away. They saw the signal, and rushed back to attack Troy. Then Sinon let the Greeks out of the wooden horse. Now the Greeks were within the walls of Troy, and they killed every Trojan they met. They burned houses and drove the people from their homes. Menelaus slew Deiphobus in his bed. Then he carried Helen down to his ship. He rejoiced that he had recovered his wife. But it had cost much, for many Greeks had died in battle. But now Troy was destroyed, and nearly all the Trojans with Priam were killed. A few however fled to the mountains and escaped. And all the young maidens were made slaves to the Greeks. After this the Greeks sailed back to their own country. They rejoiced that Troy was destroyed and that Helen was safe with her husband Menelaus.

THE WANDERINGS OF ULYSSES.

Just after the siege of Troy, Ulysses set out to return to Ithaca. He had twelve ships, and they were full of his friends. He hoped he would soon reach his home and see his wife Penelope. The goddess Pallas was his friend, but she could not save him from many troubles. As Ulysses and his men sailed homeward, there was a great storm. Their ships were tossed about by the waves, and they were driven far to the west. At last they reached an island. Ulysses sent three men on shore to examine the island. But they did not return to the ships. Then he found that this was the land of the lotus-eaters. Persons who ate the lotus forgot all about home, and they did not care for their friends any longer. They lay down all day and dreamed. So Ulysses had to watch his men, and he had to carry them from the island and bind them in the ships. Then he left the place to escape from its power.

Next they came to another island. There was a nice bay with high rocks around it. Many goats leaped about on the rocks. Ulysses left eleven of his ships there. Then he sailed in one ship to examine a little island near by. He landed with his men and entered an enormous cave. Here they found great bowls of milk and cream. They also saw long rows of cheeses on the ledges of rock. The Greeks drank the milk and ate some cheese.

While they were eating and drinking, they heard a noise. Then great flocks of sheep and goats came in bleating. A great giant followed the sheep and goats, and he carried a fir tree for a staff. He had only one eye, which was in the middle of his forehead. His name was Polyphemus. He was one of the Cyclops. The Cyclops were sons of Neptune. They worked for Vulcan. Polyphemus looked very fiercely at the Greeks. He asked them who they were. Ulysses told him that they were shipwrecked sailors, and he begged for hospitality in the name of the gods. The Cyclops laughed, and said that he was stronger than the gods. He said he did not care for them. Then he dashed two of the Greeks to the ground, and devoured them. Then he closed up the mouth of the cave with a great stone. After this the giant milked his goats. He drank up great bowls of milk, and fell asleep on the ground. Ulysses wished to kill him at once. But he thought of the great stone at the mouth of the cave. He knew that none but the giant could move it. So he did not try to kill the giant. He hoped that they might escape in the morning.

In the morning Polyphemus awoke. He arose and drove his sheep and goats out of the cave. Then he shut the Greeks in with the stone. However, the giant left his staff in the cave. Ulysses sharpened this staff, and hardened the point in the fire. A skin of wine had been brought from the ship. In the evening, the Cyclops returned to the cave. He devoured two more Greeks. Then Ulysses offered the wine to him. This was the first wine the giant had ever tasted. He was very much pleased with it, and he thought it was delicious. He asked Ulysses his name. Ulysses replied that his name was "No-man." Again Ulysses asked the giant for mercy. The Cyclops said that "No-man" should be

devoured last. Then he drank the whole skin of wine, and went to sleep.

Now Ulysses and four of his men seized the staff. They forced the sharp point into the Cyclops' single eye. The giant awoke and roared with pain. His voice sounded like thunder. All the other Cyclops heard Polyphemus roaring, and they came from their caves and asked who had hurt him. "No-man," roared Polyphemus. Then the other Cyclops thought that he was only dreaming. So they went back to their caves. Now Ulysses fastened his friends under the bellies of the sheep and goats so that the wool and hair concealed them. Ulysses himself clung on under the largest goat. This goat was the leader of the herd. In the morning, the sheep and goats bleated much, and the giant arose. He rolled back the large stone and let the sheep and goats go out. He could not see, but he felt the back of each sheep and goat. He feared the Greeks would ride out on them. He did not think to feel under them. So the Greeks got out of the cave. Then they hastened to their ship. When they had left the shore, Ulysses called back his real name. Then Polyphemus and the other Cyclops tried to sink the ship. They threw great stones at it. But Ulysses and his men escaped. They soon sailed away from the Cyclops' island with the whole fleet. But now Neptune had become Ulysses' bitter enemy.

Next Ulysses came to the Isle of the Winds. This isle floated about in the ocean. It was surrounded by a brazen wall. Æolus and his wife lived there. Ulysses stayed with Æolus a month. Then Æolus gave him enough of each wind in separate bags to take him home. But Ulysses' men thought there were treasures in these bags. While Ulysses slept, they opened them, and all the winds escaped at once. All the ships were tossed about on the waves, and at last they were driven back to the Isle of the Winds. Then Æolus thought that Ulysses was a very wicked man. He thought that the gods had forsaken him. So he would not give him any more winds.

Again Ulysses sailed toward the west. At last he came to an island belonging to Circe. Circe was the witch-goddess.

Ulysses sent some of his men on shore, but they did not return. At last he landed himself. He was going in search of his friends. Then Mercury met him. He told Ulysses that Circe had turned all his friends into hogs. He said that she would change him into a hog also. Then Mercury gave Ulysses a plant called moly. He said that Circe would offer him a bowl to taste. Then he told him to taste the moly, and he would not be turned into a hog. Now Ulysses walked through the woods to Circe's hall. She received him kindly. She gave him her bowl. Ulysses drank of the bowl; then Circe struck him with her wand. She told him to go and grunt with his friends, the hogs. But he had tasted the moly, and he was not changed. Then he drew his sword and made her promise to do him no harm. He also made her promise to change his friends back to their proper form. Then Circe and Ulysses made friends. He staid with her a whole year. At last Ulysses and his men set out again. They had to pass the Sirens' Isle. The Sirens were like beautiful maidens. They stood on the sea-shore, and played on their instruments and sang sweet songs. Their song was so sweet that no one could resist it. When sailors heard it, they could not keep away. Still, they knew it was dangerous to go near the Sirens. Now, the Sirens were bad. As soon as they had charmed any one to their isle, they strangled him. Then they sucked his blood.

Ulysses knew that he and his friends could not resist the Sirens' song. So he thought how to escape them. He took some wax and stopped up the ears of all his friends. He did not stop up his own ears. But he made his men tie him fast to the mast of the ship. He ordered them not to obey him when he heard the Sirens' song. He knew that he would want to go to the shore when he heard it. That is the reason he told them not to obey him. Then they passed the isle. Ulysses alone could hear the song of the Sirens. His friends could not hear, for their ears were full of wax. Ulysses was the only person who ever heard the Sirens' song and lived.

Next Ulysses came to the isle of Trinacria. Here three hundred and sixty cattle of Helios, the sun god, were kept. Ulysses

had been warned not to touch these cattle. He wished to pass the isle without stopping, but his men refused. They said they must land for the night. They vowed not to touch the cattle. But the next morning a great storm arose. They could not leave the isle for a month. They ate up all their provisions. Then they ate up all the birds and fish they could find. At last they had nothing to eat. Then, when Ulysses was asleep, his men took some of the oxen and killed them. They vowed to build a temple to Helios for them. However, they were terribly frightened to see the hides of the slain oxen creep on the ground and to hear their flesh low in the pot. Helios determined to have his revenge. As soon as Ulysses and his men left the isle, a great storm arose. The ship was struck by lightning, and all were killed except Ulysses. He clung to the mast and escaped. He floated on the mast until he came to an island. The nymph Calypso ruled this island. She kept him eight years. However, Ulysses was longing for home all the time. At last he built a raft and left the island on it. He hoped to reach Ithaca.

Now Neptune still hated Ulysses. As soon as he set out on the raft, Neptune raised a great storm, and the raft was broken in pieces. Ulysses was thrown upon another island. The king of this island treated him very kindly, and sent him home in a ship. The ship reached Ithaca, and the sailors left him fast asleep on the shore.

Now Ulysses had been absent twenty years. Pallas disguised him so he looked like a beggar. He wished to know what the people had been doing while he was gone, and he wished to know how his wife Penelope was. He wished to see if his servants had been good and honest. So he went first to the hut of his honest old swineherd, Eumæus. He asked Eumæus many questions. He found everything in very bad order. Many powerful young chiefs had taken possession of his palace. Here they feasted every day, and drove his son Telemachus away. They had tried to make Penelope choose one of them for her husband. But Penelope did not wish to marry any of them, and she kept putting them off. She said she could marry no one until she had finished a winding-

sheet for her father-in-law, Laertes. But she did not wish this winding-sheet to be finished. So she unravelled at night all that she wove by day. Telemachus had gone to seek his father, but he could not find him. Finally he went to Eumæus' hut, and there he recognized his father. He was very glad to find him alive and well. Ulysses went to his palace as a poor old beggar. No one knew him except his old dog, Argus. The dog licked his feet, and then died for joy. The young chiefs were very proud, and they made fun of the poor stranger. But Penelope sent for him. She did not know it was Ulysses. She pitied him, because she thought he was poor. She bade the old nurse take care of him and wash his feet. The nurse did so, and she recognized Ulysses by a scar on his foot. She was wild with joy, and she told him about everything. She told him what servants were honest and faithful. Telemachus persuaded Penelope to try to get rid of the young chiefs. So she told them that she would wed only the one who could bend Ulysses' bow. They all tried to bend the bow, and they all failed, for the bow was very strong. Ulysses was still disguised as a beggar. He took the bow while the chiefs laughed and sneered at him. He easily bent the bow, and hit the mark. Then he aimed it at them. They could not escape, for Eumæus and the other good servants had fastened all the doors. They had also removed all the arms. So Ulysses slew all his enemies. He also killed the servants who had joined with them.

After this Ulysses made himself known to Penelope. She was overjoyed to see him again, and she was very glad that she had waited for him. Ulysses lived long in Ithaca, and at last died peacefully. The Greeks admired Ulysses. They thought he was a truly brave and wise man.

KING LEAR.

King Lear was king of Britain. He had three daughters, named Goneril, Regan, and Cordelia. Goneril was married to the duke of Albany, and Regan was married to the duke of Cornwall. Cordelia was not married. The king of France and the duke of

Burgundy were both in love with Cordelia, and wanted to marry her. Cordelia was her father's favorite.

King Lear was very old and he could not attend to his duties. He determined to divide his kingdom between his three daughters. He thought he was going to die in a short time, and he called his three daughters to him. He wanted to know which loved him best. He said he would give the largest fortune to the one that loved him best.

Goneril told her father she loved him more than words could tell. She said he was dearer to her than her own eyes, dearer than life. The king was delighted. He thought all Goneril said was true. Goneril was only flattering her father, because she wanted the most money. The king gave her one-third of his kingdom.

He then called Regan to him. He asked her to tell how much she loved him. She said she loved him more than Goneril. She also flattered the king. Regan and Goneril were very deceitful. They did not really love the king. They lied to him. The king blessed his two daughters. He thought they were very good and loving children. He then gave one-third of his kingdom to Regan.

He then asked Cordelia, whom he loved best, because she was the youngest, to tell how much she loved him. He thought she would talk like the others. Cordelia was disgusted with what she heard her sisters say. She knew they were deceiving the king, and flattering him to get his money. She knew they wanted their husbands to reign over the kingdom. Cordelia was a truthful girl, and hated flattery and deception. Cordelia told her father that she loved him as a child should love a father who had taken care of it. She said that she loved and honored him, and that he was always good and kind to her. She told her father she could not flatter him like her sisters did. She said she would not promise to love only him, because she would marry and love her husband. She said she would not, like her sisters, marry a man without loving him, but would love her father all the same. Cordelia loved her father more than Goneril and Regan pretended to. She was angry with her sisters, and told her love for the king in this way.

The king was very angry with Cordelia. He thought that she did not love him, and that she was an ungrateful girl. He did not know truth from flattery. He reproached Cordelia, and disowned her. He divided the remaining third of his kingdom between Goneril, Regan, and their husbands. He called the dukes to him, and gave them a coronet and power to reign over the kingdom. He kept only the name of king, and one hundred knights for attendants. All the rest he resigned to the dukes of Albany and Cornwall. The king said he would now live with his daughters Goneril and Regan. One month he would stay with Goneril, and the next with Regan; and so on until he died.

Goneril and Regan pretended to be much pleased. All the lords and attendants in King Lear's court were astonished at the king for giving away his kingdom. They were all afraid to oppose him, except the earl of Kent. He told the king he was unjust with Cordelia. The king became very angry with him, and commanded him to be quiet. He told the earl if he disobeyed him, he would have him put to death. The earl of Kent had always been a good friend of the king. He had always before this time obeyed him. He was fond of the king, and honored him. He loved him as he did his own father, and he was willing to give his life for the king. The earl of Kent again told King Lear that Cordelia was a good, true girl, and that he did wrong to disown her.

The king was enraged, and he banished the earl of Kent. He told him in five days he must leave Britain, and never show his hated face again to the king. He said if the earl remained until the sixth day, he would be put to death. The earl bade farewell to the king. He spoke kind words to Cordelia, and said he hoped Goneril and Regan would love and honor their father. He then told them he would start for a new country.

The king of France and the duke of Burgundy were now called before the king. King Lear told them about Cordelia. He said he disowned her and that she was now without money. When the duke of Burgundy heard this, he refused to marry Cordelia; but the king of France knew the true reason why Cordelia had

lost her money and the love of her father. He loved Cordelia more for being truthful. He took her by the hand and stood before the king. He told the king he loved her. He said her virtues were worth more than money or his whole kingdom. He told Cordelia to bid farewell to her sisters and father, and told her she should go to France and be his wife and the queen of France. He reproached the duke of Burgundy, and called him a waterish duke, because his love for Cordelia ran away like water.

Cordelia wept, and told her sisters to be kind to their father. Goneril and Regan were angry with Cordelia. They told her they knew their duty. They told her to go with the husband who had taken her, because she was poor and had no home. They taunted and reproached her. They were jealous of her, because she was to be queen of France. Cordelia was very sad. She left her father with a heavy heart. She believed that her sisters would be cruel and unkind to him.

As soon as Cordelia and her husband left, Goneril and Regan began to treat their father unkindly. The king went to stay with Goneril the first month; but before the end of it he found out how deceitful she was. He knew she did not really love him. She wanted to take the name of king from him. When she met her father, she would frown. If he wished to speak with her, she pretended she was sick. She hated to see him, and always avoided him. She wanted him to dismiss his attendants.

The good earl of Kent, whom King Lear had banished, determined to stay in Britain and risk death. He thought he could be useful to the king. He disguised himself, and called himself Caius. He went to the king, and asked the king to hire him as his servant. The king did not recognize the earl. He thought Caius was a good fellow, and hired him for a servant. Caius was very kind and good to the king. One day one of Goneril's servants was very impudent to the king. Caius heard the servant, and became very angry to see his king treated so rudely. He went to the servant and whipped him. The king was much pleased with the friendly acts of his servant, and he became more attached to Caius every day.

Goneril told the king he could not stay in the palace with her, if he kept a hundred knights. She told him it was useless and expensive, and filled her court with riot and feasting. She said he must dismiss these young knights, and get a few old men like himself to stay with him. Goneril thought that the knights loved the king, and she determined to have them dismissed. Lear could not believe it was his daughter who spoke so unkindly to him. He did not think that after giving her a part of his kingdom she would be so ungrateful. He became enraged, and reproached her. He told her she had deceived him when she told him she loved him. He said the young knights were young men of good behavior, and did their duty to him. He then said he would go to his daughter Regan and live with her. He ordered his horses. He cursed his daughter Goneril, and he said he hoped her children would treat her with scorn and contempt. Goneril's husband told the king he was sorry that Goneril had been so unkind; but the king would not listen to him. He ordered his horses to be saddled, and he and his hundred knights started for the palace in which Regan lived. The king now thought he had been unjust to Cordelia, and cried bitterly.

Regan and her husband lived in great pomp in their palace. The king sent Caius to the palace with a letter telling Regan he was coming. Goneril sent a servant with a letter to Regan. She told her not to receive her father with so many servants. She accused him of being ill-humored. The servant arrived at the same time Caius did. The servant was the same man whom Caius had whipped for taunting the king. Caius hated this servant, and he began to reproach him, and challenged him to fight. The servant refused, and Caius, in a passion, beat him. Regan and her husband heard about the quarrel, and ordered Caius to be punished. The king was much grieved when he saw his faithful servant in disgrace.

The king asked for Regan and her husband. He was surprised when the servant told him they were weary and could not see him. The king insisted on seeing them, and became very angry. At last they came in to meet him. Goneril was with them.

She had come to tell her story to make her sister and her husband hate the king.

It made the king sad to see Regan turn against him. He took Goneril by the hand. He asked Goneril if she was not ashamed to look at him. Regan told him to go home with Goneril and live peaceably. She told him to dismiss half his attendants and ask Goneril's pardon. She said he was old, and must now be led by younger persons. The king showed Regan how foolish it would be for him to kneel and beg pardon, and ask his daughter for food and raiment. He said he would never return with Goneril. He said he would stay with Regan. He told Regan that before he would return with Goneril, he would go over to France and beg money of the king of France, Cordelia's husband. He expected kinder treatment from Regan. But he was disappointed, for Regan declared fifty knights too many to wait upon him. She said that twenty-five were enough. The king was almost heart-broken. He said he would return with Goneril. He told Regan that Goneril loved him twice as much as she did, for she would allow him fifty attendants, and she only half as many. Goneril then said to the king that he did not need twenty-five servants. That he could dismiss all, and her servants could wait upon him. Thus these wicked daughters each tried to treat the king the most cruelly. The king was so much troubled that he became insane. He vowed to be revenged on these ungrateful and cruel daughters.

While he was threatening his daughters, night came on, and a terrible thunder storm came up. The rain fell in torrents and the lightning flashed. King Lear's attendants were outside the palace. Regan and Goneril refused to let them come in. The king ordered his horses, and chose to go out in the storm rather than stay all night under the same roof with his wicked daughters. He went out, and the daughters closed the door upon him. They called him a stubborn old man. The wind blew and the rain fell faster when the old king rode off. One servant went with him, and he tried to cheer the king. He loved the king and staid with him.

The earl of Kent, now called Caius, followed the king. He kept close beside him. He said: "Alas! sir, are you here? People that love night, love not such nights as these." The king told Caius about his wicked daughters. Caius saw he was much grieved, and coaxed the king to enter a hovel which stood near. The king consented, and they entered the hovel. Caius knew the king was insane, and in the morning he sent for a few of the king's attendants. They came and helped Caius take the king to the castle of Dover, where Caius' friends lived. Caius, or the earl of Kent, now hastened to France. He went to Cordelia's court. He told her about her father, and how her ungrateful sisters had treated him. Cordelia was much grieved when she heard this. She asked the king, her husband, if she might go to England with power to punish her wicked sisters and again make her father king. The king consented, and Cordelia started with an army and landed at Dover.

When the good earl of Kent started for France, he left some guardians to watch King Lear. But Lear escaped and wandered about the fields near Dover. Some of Cordelia's soldiers found him. He was raving and talking to himself. He had a crown on his head made of straw and nettles, and other wild weeds that he had picked up in the corn field. They took the crazy king back to Dover. Skilful physicians were employed to attend him. Cordelia promised them all her gold and jewels if they would cure her father. They gave him medicine, and he fell asleep. When he awoke he was quiet and much better.

Cordelia then came into the room to see her father. The king was overjoyed at seeing Cordelia again, and he fell on his knees and begged pardon of her. She knelt and asked her father to bless her. She told her father it was her duty to kneel to him, and that a father should not kneel to his child. She kissed him many times, and told him to forget her unkind sisters. She told her father she had come from France to help him. He again asked Cordelia to forget and forgive the wrong he had done her. Cordelia staid with her father until he became entirely well.

The ungrateful daughters, Goneril and Regan, who were so

false to their father, were also false to their husbands. They became tired of their husbands. In a very bold way they showed that they loved Edmund, a son of the earl of Gloucester, who was a treacherous man. Regan's husband, the duke of Cornwall, died. She immediately said she intended to marry Edmund. But Goneril was very jealous; for she also loved Edmund, and he had made love to her many times. She determined to poison her sister Regan. She poisoned Regan, but her husband, the duke of Albany, detected her, and put her in prison. He also heard about her love for the treacherous Edmund. Goneril, in a fit of rage, killed herself. Thus God punished these wicked women for their bad deeds.

Before Goneril and Regan died, they sent out an army, commanded by Edmund, to fight against Cordelia. Edmund's army was victorious. They took Cordelia and put her in prison, and in a short time she died. King Lear died soon after Cordelia. Before he died, the earl of Kent told the king that Caius was not his name. He told him he was the earl of Kent. The king did not understand. Trouble had crazed his mind. Soon after, King Lear died. The faithful earl of Kent soon died also.

God punished the wicked Edmund. He was killed in a fight with his brother, whom he had wronged. Goneril's husband, the duke of Albany, who was innocent of the death of Cordelia, ascended the throne of Britain after King Lear's death.

KING ROBERT OF SICILY.

Many years ago, Robert was king of Sicily. He was very proud and haughty. He had two brothers. One of his brothers was Pope Urban. He lived in Rome. The other brother was Valmond, and he was emperor of Germany. The three brothers were all powerful and proud. One evening, Robert, the king, sat in a grand cathedral, dressed in magnificent apparel. His knights and his squires sat all around him, listening to the priests. The priests were chanting prayers in the Latin language. The king

did not understand Latin, and he asked a learned clerk what the priests were chanting. The clerk answered: "The priests are chanting about God. They are saying: 'God can put down the mighty from their seat, and He can exalt them of low degree.'" The king shrugged his shoulders and muttered something to himself scornfully. Then he said to the clerk: "I am glad that such seditious words are sung only by priests in the Latin language. For I say unto all, priests and people, that no power can push me from my throne." King Robert leaned back in his chair and yawned and fell asleep.

King Robert slept a long time. When he awoke, it was dark night, and he was alone. His knights and squires had all gone away. He started from his seat and looked all around. The cathedral was empty. Not a person was in the vast church. It was dimly lighted by a few lamps which hung before the pictures and statues of the saints. King Robert did not hear a sound. He was very angry because his courtiers had gone away leaving him asleep in the church. He went to the door; but it was locked. He cried aloud and knocked on the door. Then he listened a long time at the door.

The sexton was outside the cathedral, and he heard the knocking and shouting inside. He thought thieves were in the cathedral. He lit his lamp and asked who was there. King Robert was half choked with rage. He told the sexton it was the king. The sexton was frightened, for he thought a crazy man was locked in the cathedral. He opened the door, and a man rushed out of the church who was half naked, and without hat or coat.

The proud king of Sicily was bare-headed and dirty. His magnificent apparel had disappeared while he slept. But he did not care. He rushed through the streets to the palace. He pushed the servants right and left. He hurried up the broad stairs to the banquet room, and pushed open the door. But he stopped at the door in amazement. For he saw his courtiers sitting at the table talking and laughing, and he saw another king sitting on his throne. The other king wore Robert's clothes, and his crown and signet ring. The other king was exactly like Robert in features, form, and height. But this other king was an angel.

God was angry with king Robert because he had said that no power could push him from his throne, and so God punished proud Robert. God dislikes proud people.

The king gazed at the angel. He was speechless. The angel said: "Who are you, and what do you want?" King Robert answered with a sneer: "I am the true king; you are an impostor; I want my throne." The guests and courtiers all thought the angel was king Robert, and they sprang up and drew their swords. But the angel answered: "No, you are not the king. You shall be the king's jester, and you shall wear the bells and scalloped

IT WAS A DREAM. I AM THE KING

cape. You shall have an ape for your companion, and you shall obey my servants when they call." The servants thrust king Robert from the room and down the stairs. Some pages ran before him and opened the door of the servants' room. The servants all laughed at him and mocked him. They put him in a little room near the stable to sleep. His bed was a bundle of straw.

The next morning he awoke early. He said to himself: "It was a dream; I am the king." He turned in bed, and the straw rustled. Then he sat up and looked around. He rubbed his

eyes. He was wide awake, and he knew it was not a dream. The walls of the little room were bare and dirty. There were no tables or chairs in the room. The cape and bells were beside the bed, and the poor ape sat shivering in a corner. King Robert shuddered. He heard the horses in the stable.

Many months passed. The angel governed Sicily very wisely. There were good crops of grain and fruit, and all the people prospered. But poor king Robert was always silent, sullen, and disconsolate. The ape was his only friend, and he ate what others left. Everybody laughed at him, for they thought he was a crazy man. They did not know that he was the king. They thought the angel was the true king. Robert's heart was still very proud. God wanted him to become meek and lowly like Jesus. Sometimes the angel talked to Robert. He asked Robert who was the true king. Robert throwing back his head proudly, looked defiantly at the angel and said: "I am the true king."

After three years, some ambassadors arrived at the court of Sicily. They came from Valmond, emperor of Germany. They brought a letter from pope Urban. The pope wanted king Robert and emperor Valmond to go to Rome. He wanted them to stay in Rome during Easter week. The angel received the ambassadors, and he gave them many handsome presents. He took many courtiers and servants, and went to Rome with the ambassadors. King Robert went to Rome, riding on an old horse among the servants. He took the ape with him, and they rode through many towns. The people in the towns made fun of Robert and the ape.

When they reached Rome, the pope received them with great pomp. The pope thought the angel was his brother. Valmond was at Rome, and he embraced the angel. The pope blessed them both. The brothers met in an open square. Many persons had assembled to see the brothers meet. Robert rushed through the crowd to Valmond and the pope. He cried aloud: "I am the king. Do you not know me? Look at me! I am your brother Robert, king of Sicily. This man is not the king. He is an impostor!" The pope was much troubled. He looked at Robert, and then at the angel. Their faces were alike. But Valmond laughed, and

said to the angel: "This man is crazy. Why do you keep a madman at your court for a jester?" And king Robert was hustled back among the crowd.

Holy week was soon ended, and Easter Sunday came. King Robert had become meek and penitent, and he knelt on the floor and prayed God to forgive him for being proud. When the visit was ended, Valmond returned to Germany, and the angel returned to Sicily. One day the angel told the guests and courtiers to leave the room. He wanted to talk with Robert alone. He said: "Are you the king?" Robert answered: "You know best. I have been very wicked. Let me go away and live in a cloister." The angel smiled. He was glad, for he knew that Robert's punishment was ended, because he was not proud now. He knew that God had forgiven Robert. He said: "I am an angel, and you are the king again."

King Robert was standing near the throne. He lifted his eyes to look at the angel. But he was alone. The angel had gone back to Heaven. King Robert was dressed in the magnificent apparel again. He knelt down and thanked God that his punishment was ended, and that he was king again.

THE MONARCH AND THE MARQUIS.

THERE was a monarch who lived in a far country. He was a merry monarch. He loved fun, and he planned many things to please his friends. But sometimes he was cruel too. One day he gave his servants a very queer order. He told them to watch the strangers who came to his palace, and to give each stranger a fish to eat. Then the monarch told his servants to watch the stranger while eating. He said, if the stranger ate only one side of the fish, it would be all right. But if the stranger turned the fish over and ate both sides, he should be hanged.

Now many strangers came to the palace. They each had a fish to eat and they all turned it over. Then the king hanged them. He thought it was good fun. At last a gay young marquis came to the palace. He sat at dinner, and a fish was on his plate. He

did not know what the king had ordered, so he turned the fish over and ate it all. Then three guardsmen came and took him off to prison. They told him about turning the fish, and the marquis was much surprised. He was very sorry that he must die. Then he begged the monarch to pity him. He asked the king to let him live a few days longer. The king felt sorry for the marquis, because he was young and handsome, and he gave him three days to live. The king also told the marquis that he might make three wishes. He told him to name one wish each morning, and he promised to give him whatever he wished. The marquis was very glad, and he thanked the king. The marquis first wished to marry the king's daughter. The monarch was much surprised at this wish, and he was much vexed at it. But he could not break his promise. So the marquis got the king's daughter for a wife. The next morning the marquis wished the king to give him all of his gold and silver. The king thought this was a very bold wish. He did not like to give up his treasures, for he had worked many years to get them. But the marquis would not change his wish, so he got the gold. Now the king was in much trouble. He could not sleep. He thought a great deal about his daughter and his gold. Then he wondered what the third wish would be, and he went to the marquis the third morning. Then the marquis made his third wish. He asked the king to put out the eyes of the servants who saw him turn the fish. The king was pleased with this wish, and said the marquis was right. The king called the servants, but they did not want their eyes put out. The chamberlain immediately said he did not see the fish turned. Then the king asked the steward if he saw the marquis turn the fish. The steward said he did not, and he accused the guardsmen. But the guardsmen vowed they did not see the marquis turn the fish. Then the princess kissed the king and said her husband must be guiltless, because no one saw him turn the fish. The king frowned and shook his head. He thought the marquis was very wise. He said the marquis should be punished, but finally he pardoned him. So the marquis saved his life. He got a princess for a wife, and great riches too.

THE PET BEAR.

THERE was once a family which had a pet bear. The bear was very tame, and he was allowed to run about the house. He was a great favorite with the children, but he was very mischievous. He was very fond of sweet things, and would steal all the sugar and honey he could get. One day all the folks went to church, leaving the bear at home alone. Bruin soon became lonesome, and concluded to look about the house.

HE TRIED TO PULL OUT THE BUNG WITH HIS TEETH

As he passed the cellar door, he espied it standing ajar. He went up and stuck his nose in the crack, and pushed the door open. He walked cautiously down the cellar stairs, looking all around, because he knew he was never allowed to go down there. When he reached the bottom of the stairs, he stopped and looked around at the many good things on the floor and on shelves, in crocks, in jars, and in barrels. He sniffed the air as much as to say, "I will soon find something good."

He smelled of this and of that and at last came to the molasses barrel. The bear was fond of molasses, and he licked the barrel.

He tried to pull the bung out with his teeth, but it was very tight. Again he tried, and tugged so long at the bung that, finally, it came out. The molasses ran out on the floor. Bruin was delighted. He crouched on the floor and put his mouth to the bung-hole, and let the molasses run into his mouth. He ate and ate and ate until he could not eat any more. Then he sat up on his haunches and looked at the molasses running out of the barrel. He tried to eat some more, but he could not. Then he lay down and rolled in the puddle of molasses on the floor. Of course his fur was entirely filled with the sticky stuff, but he seemed to enjoy it.

In a little while he began to feel uneasy, for he was getting sick from eating so much molasses. He got up and walked upstairs, making great dirty marks on the floor with his feet, while the molasses dripped from his fur. He felt so bad that he determined to go to bed. He went into the young ladies' bedroom. He pulled down the snowy covers of the bed and got in, and then pulled the covers over him.

When the folks came home from church, they saw the dirty marks on the floor and found the bear in the bed. The young ladies were very angry, but the bear was so sick and looked so funny, that they could not help laughing at him. After that the folks were very careful to keep the cellar door locked.

THE FOX AND THE GOAT.

A Fox fell into a deep well, and it could not get out. It stayed a long time in the well, and it was very wet and hungry. A Goat eating grass near the well became thirsty. It went to the well to get a drink of water. It looked into the well and saw the Fox. The Goat asked the Fox if the water was good. The Fox was sly, and said, "Yes." Then the sly old Fox coaxed the Goat to get into the well. The silly Goat finally jumped into the well. The Goat was frightened. It did not know the well was so deep. The Fox coaxed the Goat to let it stand on his back, and jump

out of the well. The Fox said he would then help the Goat out of the well. The Goat agreed to this. Then the Fox stood on the Goat's back, and jumped out of the well. The sly Fox ran away very fast, and did not help the Goat. The Goat was angry at the Fox. The poor Goat was very wet and cold. It could not jump out of the well. It cried loudly, and a man heard the Goat. He ran to the well, and looking in, saw the Goat in the water. He caught the Goat by the horns, and pulled it out of the well. He was very angry, and took a large stick, and beat the Goat. The foolish Goat was sorry that it had been so foolish as to believe the sly Fox.

THE BOYS AND THE FROGS.

A LONG time ago, some frogs had their home in a pond. A large log lay in the pond, and the frogs liked to jump on the log, and sit in the warm sun. One day some boys were playing ball near the pond. After a while they got tired of playing and went to the pond. A frog was sitting on the log, and the boys threw stones at it. The frog was frightened, and jumped off the log into the water. The cruel boys laughed and yelled. They gathered more stones, and threw them at the frogs. A stone struck a frog on the leg and broke it, and it pained him greatly. The frogs were very angry at the boys, but they did not know what to do. Finally one large frog said he would climb on the log, and ask the boys to stop throwing stones. He was a brave old frog. He climbed up on the log and called out very loudly, "Boys!" One boy heard the frog, but he did not know what it said. They threw stones at the frog again. But the frog did not jump off the log. It stayed on the log and called again, "Boys!" The boys heard the frog this time, and they were frightened, and stared at it. The frog was very sad, and said, "Boys, you like to throw stones at us frogs. It is fun for you, but it is death to us. You are cruel boys, for the stones kill my dear little frogs. You have broken one poor frog's leg, and hurt many other frogs. Please stop throwing stones at us." The frog then jumped off the log

into the water. The boys threw their stones on the ground. They were ashamed, and pulled their hats over their faces, and went home. They were sorry they had been so wicked and cruel.

THE LION AND THE MOUSE.

ONE day a lion was sleeping on the ground. A little mouse ran across the lion's face. The lion awoke and stood up. He saw the little mouse and was very angry. He put his great paw on the

HE PUT HIS GREAT PAW ON THE MOUSE

little mouse to kill it. The mouse squealed, and said to the lion: "Do not kill me, and I will help you." The lion laughed and let the mouse run away. He thought that a little mouse could not help a great and strong lion.

A few days afterwards, as the lion was walking through the woods, some hunters caught him in a strong net. They tied the lion to the ground with strong ropes. The lion struggled and roared, but he could not break the ropes.

The little mouse heard the lion roaring, and it came running to the lion. It cut the strong ropes with its sharp teeth, and the lion got out of the net and was free.

The mouse said: "You thought I could not help you; but now you know a little mouse can sometimes help a great lion."

THE BOY AND THE WOLF.

THERE was a boy who took care of a flock of sheep near a village. He was a mischievous boy. One day he thought it would be good fun to fool the people in the village. He ran and shouted: "Wolf! Wolf!" The people heard the boy shouting. They believed a wolf was killing the boy's sheep. They ran out with clubs and stones to kill the wolf. But they were fooled, for there was no wolf. The boy was delighted at the success of his trick, and laughed very much.

In a few days the boy thought he would have fun again. He ran and cried: "Wolf! Wolf!" The people again ran out to kill the wolf, but they saw no wolf.

The next day a wolf really came to steal the boy's sheep. The boy was very much frightened, and he ran to the village and shouted loudly, "Wolf! Wolf! Wolf!" The people thought the boy wished to fool them again, and nobody went to help the boy. The wolf killed several sheep and then ran away.

If boys and girls are deceitful, people will not believe them even when they tell the truth.

No legacy is so rich as honesty.

THE EAGLE AND THE INFANT.

THE eagle is a very strong bird. It can carry a small boy in its claws. A few years ago a large eagle had its nest on a mountain.

The infant's mother lived near the mountain. She kept many goats, and sold milk. One day she went to the mountain to cut

SHE SAW THE EAGLE FLYING AWAY WITH IT

grass for the goats. She carried her baby in her arms. She wrapped a shawl around the baby and laid it on the grass, and soon the baby fell asleep. The mother was cutting the grass, and she was very busy and did not watch her baby.

The eagle flying in the air, saw the infant lying on the grass. It was hungry, and it flew down to the baby and fastened its claws in the shawl. It flew away with the baby.

The baby awoke and began to cry. The mother heard the baby crying. She turned around quickly and looked for the baby. She saw the eagle flying away with it. She was terrified, and shrieked.

Some shepherds watching sheep on the side of the mountain, heard the mother scream and ran to her. They saw the eagle flying in the air, holding the infant in its claws. The eagle flew to its nest. The eagle's nest was on a large rock on a steep precipice. The eagle deposited the baby on the rock beside the nest and flew away.

A brave shepherd climbed up the precipice to the nest. The eagle saw the man and was furious. It flew on the shepherd's back and beat him with its wings. The man held the baby in one arm and beat the eagle with a large stick. Finally the man hit the eagle on the head with the stick and killed it, and it fell into a deep gully. The shepherd cautiously descended the steep precipice and brought the baby safely to its mother. The mother was very happy, and she hugged and kissed her baby. She thanked the brave shepherd for saving the life of her child.

HARMOSAN AND THE CALIPH.

Once the Moslems and the Persians were at war. The Moslems invaded Persia to conquer the country. The Persians defended their country bravely. Three great battles were fought. Finally, in the third battle, the Persians were conquered, and the Moslems became rulers of the land. In this battle, the Persian general, named Harmosan, was taken prisoner. He was a very brave man, but the Moslems were going to kill him. They brought him out to put him to death. Harmosan had been fighting long and hard, and was very thirsty. He said to the Moslems: "I am very thirsty. Give me a drink of water before I die." His enemies gave him a goblet of water. Harmosan took the goblet, but he did not drink. He looked at his enemies as if to see what they were going to do.

The bravest man might have been afraid; for all around him stood men with angry faces. They held their naked swords pointed at his breast, and he was all alone. The Moslem Caliph saw Harmosan hesitate, and said: "What are you afraid of? Do you think my soldiers will strike you from behind? Do not be afraid; my gallant Moslems never do a treacherous thing. You may drink the water safely. You shall not die till you have drunk all the water in the goblet. Till then you may live; but when you have drunk that cup of water, you shall die." Harmosan was a man of ready wit; and when the Caliph stopped speaking, he quickly threw the goblet on the earth. The water was all spilled on the ground, and sank into the hot sand. Then he spoke to the Caliph, saying: "You have said that I may live till I have drunk all the water in that goblet. Now tell your servants to gather up the water spilled from the goblet."

The Caliph hesitated a moment as if angry, and then said: "A King's promise is sacred. I cannot break my word. Bring another cup of water, and quickly give it to the noble Persian. I said to you before, drink and die; now I bid you drink and live." So Harmosan's ready wit saved his life; and the Caliph and the Moslems greatly admired his cleverness.

LITTLE GRETCHEN.

Little Gretchen was a match-girl. She walked on the streets and sold matches. She was a very good girl, and she had pretty curly hair and bright blue eyes. Gretchen had a very cruel and lazy father. He would not work. He was very cross to Gretchen, and she was afraid of him.

One cold day Gretchen walked up and down the street all day, but could not sell any matches. She was afraid to go home because she knew her father would beat her. Gretchen got very cold and hungry. She sat on the snow between two houses, and hid her cold little feet under her torn dress. She had no shoes on her feet.

Gretchen lighted a match. The match burned brightly, and she bent her hand around the match. The little girl imagined she saw a bright stove. She stretched out her feet to warm them. But the match went out and the warm stove disappeared.

Then she lighted another match. The match threw a bright light on the wall. She now thought she saw a pretty room, with a table standing on the floor. The table was covered with a white cloth, and a large roasted duck was on it. The duck jumped off the table and walked toward little Gretchen. The match burnt out, and the duck disappeared.

Gretchen lighted another match. She now thought she was sitting under a beautiful Christmas tree covered with pretty toys. The match burnt out and the Christmas tree disappeared.

Gretchen was very cold, and she was nearly dead. She had many matches. She struck the matches on the wall and burnt them one after another. At last she had only one match left. She burned it, and the match made a great light. Little Gretchen saw a beautiful angel coming to her. The angel smiled and took Gretchen in her arms and carried her up to Heaven.

In the morning the people walking in the street, saw a little girl lying dead in the snow and they saw too many burnt matches lying on the snow. They were very sorry for the poor little girl. But Gretchen's soul was happy in Heaven where she will never be cold and hungry any more.

THE BOYS AND THE NUT.

Two little boys were walking along a road. The road was through a wood. The boys saw a nice large nut in the middle of the road, and they both ran to get it. One boy reached it first and picked it up. The other boy was angry and wanted the nut. He said he saw it first. The boys quarrelled about the nut a long time. At last a large boy came along the road. The two little boys went to him and asked him to decide who should have the nut. The large boy said he would, and he took the nut in his hand and

told the little boys to tell him all about it. Then one boy said, he saw the nut first. The other boy said, he picked it up first. The large boy thought the little boys were very foolish to quarrel about the nut, and he decided he would make them ashamed. So he took the nut and cracked it. Then he picked out the nice kernel. He next divided the pieces of shell and put them in two little piles. Then the large boy said: "This pile of shells is for the boy who saw the nut first, and this other pile is for the boy who picked it up first. I shall keep the kernel myself for deciding the dispute." Do you think the little boys were wise? No, they were very foolish to quarrel about the nut. They should have divided the nut themselves like good boys. Then the large boy would not have taken all the kernel from them.

THE WALL OF SNOW.

A WIDOW and her daughter lived in a little house. They were very poor, but they were good and honest. Their little house stood alone on the road near a large village.

An army of soldiers came to the country. They burned many villages and killed many people. One night the widow and her daughter heard that the soldiers were coming. They were coming to burn the village and kill and rob the people.

The widow and her daughter were greatly frightened. Before going to bed that night they opened the Bible and read it. They knelt on the floor and asked God to take care of them. Then they went to bed and slept.

In the morning they woke, but it was very dark. They went to the door, but snow was against the door. They went to the windows, but the snow was against the windows. Then they went to a little door in the roof. They opened it and looked out. They saw a great heap of snow all around the house. They looked at the village, but the village was all burnt. In the night the soldiers had come. They had burned the village and killed many people. They did not see the poor widow's house, for the snow covered it.

The soldiers had all gone away, and the widow and her daughter were glad. They thanked God for hiding them in the snow and saving them from the soldiers.

THE KNIGHT AND THE RAINDROP.

Once a knight was riding through the woods. It was a warm summer day, and he was tired. Getting off his horse, he tied it to a tree and let it eat grass. He sat down on a rock near the road, and watched his horse eating. Soon he became drowsy. His eyes closed, his head nodded, and at last he fell asleep.

A cloud floating in the sky came over the knight. A little raindrop saw him, and it left the cloud and fell on his nose. The knight woke suddenly, much startled. He thought an enemy was attacking him and was very angry. He drew his bright sword and brandished it in the air. But he saw no enemy. Then he felt the raindrop on his nose. He put up his hand to brush it off. But the raindrop laughed, and sparkling in the sunlight, rolled down his nose. It fell upon a little flower at the knight's feet. The flower was thirsty, and it was glad to receive the little raindrop. It filled the air with sweet fragrance. The knight smelling it, looked down and saw the pretty flower. He was pleased and smiled. Putting his sword in its scabbard, he stooped down and carefully plucked the little flower.

Then he mounted his horse and rode away on his journey. After a time, he came to a large castle. Reaching the gate he rode in. A beautiful lady met him. She was his lady love. He gave her the pretty flower, and she put it in her hair, and smiled sweetly.

THE DONKEY AND THE BULL DOG.

There was once a man who had a donkey and a bull dog. The donkey's name was Tom, and the dog's name was Captain. Tom was an old donkey, and he did not work any, but ate grass

in the field all day. The man was very kind to Tom because he was old. Captain was a bad dog, and he liked to tease Tom. He would often go to the field and bark at Tom. Tom did not like to hear the noise. Sometimes Captain would walk up behind Tom and bite his heels. Tom was greatly troubled by the dog, but he was very patient. Captain liked to tease Tom, and went to the field every day. At last the donkey became very angry at the dog. One day Captain ran around Tom and barked at him. Tom lay back his ears and ran at the dog. He seized him by the back with his teeth. He lifted him off the ground and shook him. Then he ran to a pond in the field, carrying the dog in his teeth. He pushed Captain under the water. Tom held Captain under the water until he was drowned. Then Tom went back to the field and ate his grass in peace. Don't you think Tom was a wise old donkey?

THE FOX AND THE CROW.

Once a crow was sitting on a tree with a piece of cheese in her mouth. A fox was walking under the tree. He looked up and saw the crow and the piece of cheese. He could not climb the tree and so he could not catch the crow. But he was very sly. He said to the crow: "Pretty crow, please sing. You can sing very sweetly, I am sure, and I want to hear you." Crows cannot sing, but the silly crow was flattered. Opening her mouth to sing, the piece of cheese fell from her mouth. The fox picked up the piece of cheese from the ground and ran off. The crow was vain, and the fox knew it. So he flattered her because he wanted the cheese. He ate the cheese and laughed at the foolish crow.

THE MISCHIEVOUS BOY AND THE HAT.

One day a mischievous boy saw an old hat. He picked it up and put it in the hall of the school, and then he placed some bricks under the hat. No one had seen him. He wanted the other boys

to kick the hat and hurt their toes; then he would laugh at them. He went out of the house, but soon came back again. He saw the old hat in the hall. He had forgotten about the bricks under the hat, and went to it and kicked it hard. He hurt his toe, and he danced and howled in the hall. The other boys saw him and laughed at him. He dug a pit for others and fell into it himself.

THE DOG AND THE PIECE OF MEAT.

A DOG was walking with a piece of meat in his mouth. He walked on a plank across a stream. He saw his image and the image of the meat in the water. He thought the image was another dog. He wanted the other dog's meat. He opened his mouth to seize the other dog's meat. His piece of meat dropped from his mouth and fell into the water. Thus he lost his meat. He was a greedy and foolish dog.

THE MONKEY AND THE CAT'S PAW.

A LITTLE boy had a cat and a monkey. One day the boy bought some chestnuts. He put them on the stove to roast, and went out to play. The monkey was standing near the stove and saw the chestnuts roasting. As he was very fond of chestnuts, he wanted them.

The cat was sitting on a chair, and the monkey coaxed her to come to the stove. The monkey was very sly, and he caught the cat and jumped on a chair near the stove. He took the cat's paw and scraped the chestnuts off the stove with it. Then the monkey let the cat go. The stove was very hot, and the cat's paw was burned. The monkey picked up the nuts and ate them.

"A FEW books, well chosen, are of more use than a great library."

THE WOLF BROTHER.

Once upon a time there was an Indian wigwam, standing alone on the shore of a lake. In this wigwam an old Indian lay on his bed. The bed was made of the skins of wild animals. The old Indian was very ill. He was about to die. He had three children. The oldest child was a boy, ten years old; the next was a girl, eight years old; and the youngest was a boy, six years old. The three children stood near their father's bed. They were very sad, because they knew their father was going to die.

The father was very weak and his voice was low. Just before he died, he said: "My children, I am going to die and leave you. I am going to the happy hunting grounds. Stay here. Do not go away to the distant villages. The people there are wicked. Stay here; take care of one another and be happy." When the old father had said these words, he died. The children buried the body of their father. They were very sorry and sad for a time. After awhile the elder boy took his father's bow and arrow and fishing net. He went out to shoot birds and squirrels, and to catch fish for his brother and sister to eat. It was winter, and the ground was covered with snow. It was very hard to get enough food to keep them from starving. But they were all very kind to one another, and they were contented. At last spring came. Then they had plenty to eat, for they could find berries and roots in the woods. There was plenty of game also. The woods were full of beautiful flowers, and the birds sang sweet songs in the trees.

But now the elder brother grew tired of being alone with his brother and sister. He wished to see villages and people. One day he left his brother and sister in the wigwam and went away and never came back. The sister, also, became dissatisfied. She slipped away from her little brother, and left him in the hut. She ran away and did not return. The poor little Indian boy was now alone. He waited a long time for his sister to come back. He ate the food that she had left for him, and at night he lay

down on the wolf skins and went to sleep. He awoke in the morning, but there was no one to take care of him, and he was very sad.

At last he got very hungry. There was nothing to eat in the wigwam, and he went into the woods and picked berries. And he dug up roots and ate them. He did this every day. At last he began to love wandering about. Finally he left the wigwam and did not go back any more. He slept in caves among the rocks and in hollow trees. He roved about in the woods alone all the time. He often met wolves in the woods. He liked the wolves. He became acquainted with them, and liked to live with them. At first the wolves growled and snapped their teeth at him. At last thick brown hair grew upon his body. Then the wolves became fond of him, and he slept with them in the caves. He went out with them to hunt deer and other wild animals, and soon learned to eat raw flesh. He liked to eat raw flesh better than nuts, roots, or berries.

Now the elder brother had gone to a village across the great lake. He had married and was living in a fine wigwam. He often went out on the lake in his canoe to fish. One day he was paddling in his canoe near the shore. He heard strange cries in the woods. At first he thought they were the cries of a child. Then they sounded like the bark of a wolf. He did not know what animal was making the strange sounds.

He wanted to see the animal, so he rowed to the shore and left the boat. He walked through the trees a little piece. He saw a strange looking creature. It looked like his little brother, but it looked like a wolf too. Sometimes it ran on two legs like a boy, and sometimes it ran on all fours like a beast. He walked toward it, but it ran away from him in fear. It barked and snapped its teeth at him. He ran after it. He called: "Brother, brother." He ran fast but he could not overtake the strange creature. As they ran through the woods, the strange creature became more and more like a wolf. Its voice lost the tones of a child, and became gruff, like the howl of a beast. At last the elder brother came close to it, and he was going to seize it. But suddenly it turned around and looked fiercely into his face. The young Indian was

astonished. The creature resembled his little brother, but it looked wild and hideous. It barked and howled, and said: "I am a wolf." It turned around and galloped swiftly away into the forest, and the young Indian never saw his little brother again.

THE TWO MULES.

Two mules were walking together on a lonesome road. One mule had a bag of gold on its back, and a bell hung to its collar. The other mule had a bag of corn on its back. The mule with the bag of gold was very proud. It tossed its head and walked very proudly. It liked to hear the bell ring. It was a vain, foolish mule. The mule with the bag of corn on its back was jealous and hung its head. It thought it would be very nice to carry a bag of gold and have a nice little bell hung to its collar.

Two robbers were hiding in the forest near the road. They heard the bell ring. They broke two large limbs off a tree, and jumped over the fence and ran to the mules. They took the bag of gold, and beat the mule's back until it was sore. When the other mule saw the robbers stealing the gold and beating the mule, it was glad it carried the corn. The robbers did not want the corn, and so they let the mule go and it walked briskly home.

THE ASS AND THE WOLF.

An ass was eating grass in a meadow. A hungry wolf came out of the woods and saw the ass. The wolf thought the ass would be good to eat. The ass saw the wolf and was frightened. The ass pretended it was lame. The wolf walked up to the ass. It asked the ass what made it lame. The ass told the wolf a sharp thorn was in its foot. It asked the wolf to pull the thorn out. The ass said the thorn would choke the wolf when it ate him. The wolf consented. The ass raised its foot, and the wolf came close

to the ass and looked for the thorn. Suddenly the ass kicked the wolf in the mouth and broke its teeth. The wolf fell on the ground, and howled very loudly. The wise ass galloped away laughing.

THE BEAR AND THE BEE-HIVE.

A BEAR saw some bee-hives. The bear was very fond of honey. He saw the bees flying in and out of a hive, and he thought they were very little. The bear thought he was very large, and he was not afraid of the bees. He walked up to the hive, and struck it with his paw. The hive fell on the ground. Many bees flew on the bear and stung his nose and eyes. He struck at the bees with his paw and rolled on the ground and howled. The bees then flew back to the hive, and the bear walked away. His nose and eyes were very sore.

THE ELEPHANT'S REVENGE.

MR. SNIP was a tailor. He made fine clothes for gentlemen. He had many workmen in his shop. One day Mr. Snip and his workmen sat in the shop busily sewing. An elephant passed along the street near the window. Mr. Snip took some fruit from a plate and offered it to the elephant.

The elephant stretched out his trunk to take the fruit. But Mr. Snip did not give the fruit to the elephant. Instead, he pricked the elephant's trunk with a needle. The elephant roared and ran away. The tailors all laughed, and they thought Mr. Snip was a very funny man.

The elephant stopped at a puddle of dirty water. He filled his trunk with the water. Then he came back to Mr. Snip's shop. Mr. Snip was sewing on a fine coat. The elephant squirted the dirty water over Mr. Snip and the fine coat. Mr. Snip was frightened and angry, and he jumped from his table and yelled.

THE MILK GIRL AND HER BUCKET.

A FARMER'S daughter went out to milk the cows. She got a large bucket full of milk. She put the bucket on her head. As she was walking home, she thought she would sell the milk and buy eggs with the money. She would set hens on the eggs, and many chickens would come out of the eggs. The chickens would grow, and she would sell them and get much money. She thought she would buy a nice dress with the money, and make the girls jealous. As she thought this, she forgot her bucket and tossed her head. The bucket fell off her head, and the nice milk was spilled on the ground. The girl looked at the spilled milk and the empty bucket. She was disappointed. She picked up the empty bucket and walked home.

THE MAN AND HIS GOOSE.

ONCE a man had a goose. It was a wonderful goose. Every day it laid a golden egg. But the man was not satisfied. He was very greedy for more. He thought one golden egg every day was not enough. He wanted a great many golden eggs, but he could not wait for them. He caught his goose and killed it. He thought he would find it full of golden eggs. He cut open its body with a knife, but he found nothing. He was very much grieved, and all his friends laughed at him. He was very foolish. His goose was dead and could lay him no more golden eggs. By trying to get too much, he lost all.

THE ARGONAUTS.

MANY years ago, a king who lived in Greece had two children, a boy and a girl. The boy's name was Phryxus. The girl's name was Helle. The children's mother died, and the king soon married again. The step-mother's name was Ino. She was very cruel to the children and wanted to kill them.

One day there came a winged ram with a golden fleece. The ram took Phryxus and Helle on his back and flew away with them. When the ram was flying across the sea, Helle fell from the ram's back and was drowned. The sea into which she fell is now called the Hellespont. The name means the Sea of Helle. Phryxus

THE RAM TOOK PHRYXUS AND HELLE ON HIS BACK AND FLEW AWAY WITH THEM

staid on the ram's back. The ram flew to a country called Colchis. The king of Colchis received Phryxus kindly. The king's name was Æetes. The ram was killed, and its fleece was nailed to a tree. A dragon guarded the Golden Fleece.

In Iolcus there was a king named Æson. He had a brother whose name was Pelias. Pelias drove Æson from the throne. Pelias then became king.

Æson had a son whose name was Jason. Æson was afraid

Pelias would kill Jason. So Æson sent Jason to Chiron's cave. Chiron was a centaur. A centaur was half man and half horse. When Jason became a man he left the cave and went to Iolcus. Pelias saw Jason, and he thought Jason would kill him because he had taken the kingdom from Jason's father.

Pelias asked Jason to go to Colchis and get the Golden Fleece. He thought Jason would be killed. Jason consented to go. He built a ship, which he named Argo. He collected many brave men and sailed to Colchis. The men who sailed in the Argo were called Argonauts. The Argonauts had many adventures. They killed many giants and monstrous birds.

When the Argonauts arrived at Colchis, Jason asked Æetes for the Golden Fleece. The king had two fierce bulls. The bulls breathed fire from their nostrils. The king said Jason must yoke the bulls and plow a field with them. He must then sow the field with dragons' teeth. Jason thought he could not do this great task.

The king had a daughter whose name was Medea. She was a witch. She promised to help Jason if he would marry her. Jason consented. Medea gave Jason a magic ointment. She said the bulls could not hurt Jason if he had the ointment.

Jason rubbed the ointment on himself, his shield, and his spear. He went to the bulls. The ointment quieted the bulls, and he yoked them and plowed the field with them. Then he sowed the dragons' teeth. Immediately many soldiers sprang up from the ground and attacked Jason. Jason threw a stone among the soldiers, and they began to fight each other. All the soldiers were soon killed and Jason was safe.

Æetes did not want to give the Golden Fleece to Jason. He wanted to kill the Argonauts and burn the Argo, but Medea warned Jason. She led Jason to the tree, and then she put the dragon to sleep. Jason took the Golden Fleece from the tree. The Argonauts then fled to their ship. Medea took her little brother and ran to the ship.

Æetes pursued the Argonauts. Medea cut her brother to pieces, and threw him into the sea. Æetes stopped to collect the pieces of his son. He could not overtake the Argo.

When the Argonauts returned to Iolcus, Jason gave the Golden Fleece to Pelias. Medea caused Pelias to be killed. Pelias' son drove Medea and Jason from the country.

Jason at last became tired of the wicked Medea. He deserted her and married Creusa. Medea sent Creusa a poisoned robe. Creusa put it on and died. Medea flew away in a chariot drawn by serpents.

One day Jason was lying on the ground, and a large piece of wood fell on his head and killed him.

THE DOG AND THE LOST BOY.

MANY shepherds live in the valleys among the mountains of Scotland. The shepherds keep large flocks of sheep. The flocks are allowed to run about over the country. They go in every direction. The shepherds go out to their pastures every day to watch the sheep. They keep dogs to help them, and they are very sagacious animals. They help drive the sheep among the rocks and steep places.

One day a shepherd went out to tend his sheep. He took one of his children with him. The child was about four years old. The shepherd wandered about the pasture for some time. At last he found he must go to the top of a steep hill. He wanted to look around over the pasture. The hill was too steep and rough for the child to climb. So the father left him on a level place at the bottom. He gave the child strict orders not to move from the place until he returned. The shepherd reached the top of the hill. Suddenly a thick mist came down on the mountain, and it became almost as dark as night.

The anxious father instantly hastened back to find his child. But it was dark and he lost his way. The mountains were very dangerous. They were full of cataracts and precipices. The good shepherd searched many hours for his child. At last the mist suddenly rose from the mountain. The shepherd found himself on the plain near his cottage. It was both useless and dan-

gerous to continue the search that night, so the weary shepherd returned to his home. His dog was also missing.

The next morning the shepherd, with some of his neighbors, went out to seek his child. They searched all day without success. At night they descended from the mountain and returned home. When the shepherd reached his cottage, he found that his dog had been home. A piece of cake had been given to the dog, and he immediately ran away with it.

The shepherd continued the search for several days. Every evening when he got home he found that the dog had been there. A cake had been given to the dog each time. The dog instantly ran away with the cake every time. The shepherd thought the dog acted very strangely. He remained at home the next day to watch the dog. When the dog came home to get the cake, he followed him to the mountain.

The dog led the way to a cataract. The cataract was a long way from the place where the shepherd had left his child, and the place was very rough and precipitous. The dog at once went down this dangerous place. Finally he disappeared in the mouth of a cave. The mouth of the cave was almost level with a great cataract.

The shepherd, with great difficulty, followed the dog. When he entered the cave, he found his child. The child was eating the cake which the dog had just brought him. The father's joy was great, and he embraced his child and caressed the faithful dog. The child had fallen down the precipice. The dog had found him by means of his scent. For several days the dog had kept the child from starving by bringing him something to eat every day. The dog was very sagacious.

THE MILLER, HIS SON, AND THEIR ASS.

A MILLER and his son were driving their ass on the road. They were going to the city to sell him. They soon met some women standing near a well, talking and laughing. One woman said: "Look at that man and boy. Why do they not ride on their

ass?'' The miller hearing what the woman said, put his son on the ass and walked on the road by the side of the ass. In a little while they passed several old men talking together and disputing. One old man said: ''See that boy on the ass, and his poor old father walking on the road. Boys do not respect old men now. Get off, you lazy boy, and let your poor, tired father ride.'' Then the miller told his son to get off, and he rode the ass himself. They

THEN THE MILLER TOLD HIS SON TO GET ON BEHIND HIM, AND THEY BOTH RODE TOWARD THE TOWN

went on thus for a time. Soon they came to a crowd of women and children. Several of the women and children said: ''You lazy old man, why do you ride on your ass, and let your poor, little boy walk on the dusty road?'' Then the miller told his son to get on behind him, and they both rode toward the town. When they

came near the town, they met a man. He said: "Old man, is that your ass?" The miller said: "Yes, it is my ass." Then the man said: "I think it is cruel for two heavy persons like you to ride a poor, little ass. It is easier for you and your boy to carry the ass, than for him to carry you." The miller said: "I will try to please you," and then he and his son got off the ass. They tied the legs of the ass together, and put a long pole between. The miller and his son put the ends of the pole on their shoulders and carried the ass. They came to a bridge and tried to carry the ass across. Many people saw them, and they thought it very funny, and laughed loudly. The ass did not like to be carried, and the noise that the people made frightened him. He struggled and broke the ropes that tied his legs. He fell off the bridge into the water and was drowned. The old man was very angry. He had tried to please everybody, but he had pleased nobody, and had lost his ass.

THE CHARGE OF THE SIX HUNDRED AT BALAKLAVA.

England and Russia were at war. The English soldiers were in Russia. The Russians were in strong forts which had many cannon. They were at a place called Balaklava.

In a valley the Russians had many cannon. They also had cannon on each hill. The English General wanted to take these cannon in the valley. He had six hundred soldiers on horses, and they were called the Light Brigade. These guns could not be taken; and to try to take them was very foolish. But the General sent an order to the Light Brigade to take the guns.

All the soldiers knew that they could not take the guns. All knew that the General who ordered them to be taken was wrong. They knew if they rode into the valley they would all be killed. But soldiers must obey; they were good soldiers, and they obeyed.

Nolan, the leader of the Light Brigade, said: " Forward, and take the guns." Then the six hundred horsemen drew their bright

swords and boldly rode into the valley. The Russians were astonished. The six hundred rode on for over a mile. The cannon in front of them poured shot and shell into the six hundred. The cannon on the right of them and on the left of them poured in more shot and shell. The thunder of the cannon was dreadful, but the six hundred fearlessly rode on. The shot and shell ploughed up the ground in the valley. Horse and rider fell before this dreadful storm of shot and shell. But the brave six hundred rode up to the cannon in the valley. They cut down the Russian gunners at the cannon. They rode through the line of Russian soldiers and broke it. They fought bravely and cut down with their swords many of the Russians. But behind this line of Russians there were many thousands of other Russians. The six hundred could not fight so many. So they turned back, and rode through the valley again. But six hundred men did not ride back. Many were killed, and only the few who were still alive rode back.

The cannon behind them, on the right of them, and on the left of them, thundered and rained shot and shell upon them. Before this dreadful rain of shot and shell many men and horses fell, and the valley was covered with the dead and dying. But on the brave horsemen rode, and the few who were left alive came out of the valley.

The six hundred did nobly and well, and we honor them for their bravery. All the world admired them.

THE STORY OF KATHLEEN.

A LONG time ago, a rich old lord lived in a castle, near Galway, in Ireland. He had a beautiful daughter, who was named Kathleen. Both the rich people and the poor people loved her. Her friends liked to visit her. When the poor people begged for help, she was very kind to them, and gave them food and clothing. They thought she was the kindest young lady in Ireland. The people sang songs about her wonderful goodness.

The old lord's wife died and he married a second wife. She was young, but she was wicked and spiteful. She made black bread for the old lord and for Kathleen, and gave it to them to eat. She whipped and scolded the servants, and drove all the poor people away from the castle. The old lord was soon very sorry that he had married this wicked woman. She hated both her husband and Kathleen. One day the lord called Kathleen to him. He said her face was like her dead mother's, and he was glad, for he had loved Kathleen's gentle mother. The old man smoothed Kathleen's hair and kissed her forehead. The wicked stepmother was jealous of Kathleen, and cut off her long hair. She took her silk dress away from Kathleen and gave her a calico dress. She took Kathleen to the seashore and sold her to a sailor.

The sailor took Kathleen far away from her home. He sailed over the seas to Boston. He wanted to sell Kathleen, and an old man saw her and bought her from the sailor. He took her home to his wife. They soon grew to love Kathleen and they were very kind to her. They did not make her work hard, but loved her the same as a daughter. She stayed a long time in Boston with the old man and his wife.

When the old lord found out that his wicked wife had sold his beautiful daughter, he was very angry. He said he would give all his money and all his lands to the person who would bring Kathleen back to Ireland. A young man, who lived in the castle, loved Kathleen. He was a page, and served the lord. He said he would search for Kathleen. He did not want the Irish lord to give the money and land to him. He loved Kathleen and wanted to marry her. The old lord was surprised. He said: "My daughter is a rich lady, and you are a poor page. But I will give my daughter to you, if you bring her to Ireland."

The young man was glad to hear this. He sailed far away on the ocean. He sailed for many days until he reached Boston. He left the vessel and walked through the city. He met an old white haired man. He asked if the beautiful Kathleen lived in Boston. The old man said: "She lives with me. We love her the same as a daughter. I bought her from an Irish sailor. She is kind and gentle to us." The old man took the young man home with him.

Kathleen was very glad to see her friend, and she asked about her old father. The page wanted to give a purse of money to the kind old man. But the kind man and his wife refused to take it. They gave Kathleen to the young man. They were very sorry to part with her, and wept. The young lady was sorry to leave them, but she wanted to live in Ireland. The page and the lady soon sailed away from Boston. They sailed on the ocean many days, and came at last to Ireland, and went to the castle near Galway. The jealous stepmother was dead. The old lord was rejoiced to see his daughter. He gave his money and lands to the young man. Kathleen soon married the page and was very happy. They always lived in the castle with the old lord.

THE VILLAGE PUMP.

A LONG time ago, a large pump was put in front of a school. The water in the pump was cool, and sparkled in the sunshine. Old men and old women went to the pump when they were thirsty. When school was out, many boys and girls came to the old pump. They laughed and talked to each other. They worked the handle up and down, and the cold water came out of the spout. It fell into a tin bucket and the children drank it.

One day, an old horse which was very thirsty, came to the pump and looked into the tin bucket. No water was in it. The horse was wise. He took the handle of the pump in his mouth and worked it up and down. The water fell into the bucket. The horse drank the water, and then trotted back to the field to eat grass.

STORY ABOUT TWO DOGS.

Two dogs lived near each other. One dog's name was Bruce, and the other's name was Andy. Andy was a Newfoundland. When the children went to the river, Andy went with them. Andy was a good dog, and he watched the children. Bruce was a mastiff, and he watched the house at night. He was a good

watch dog. When robbers came near the house Bruce would bark.

One day Bruce found a bone. He was hungry and wanted to eat it all. He was very selfish. Andy was hungry, too, and he wanted a piece of the bone. Bruce took the bone and ran to a bridge. Andy ran after Bruce. They began to fight, and soon they rolled over the bridge into the water. The water was very deep. Andy could swim, and swam quickly to the shore. But Bruce could not swim. He struggled and tried to swim, but he was sinking in the water. Andy saw Bruce struggling. He forgot all about the bone, and jumped into the river, and swam to Bruce. He caught Bruce's collar in his mouth and helped him to the shore. The dogs shook the water from their coats. The dogs looked at each other. Bruce looked ashamed. Andy was noble and generous.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

It was the night before Christmas. The house was very still. All were asleep in bed. Not a little mouse moved in the house. The children's stockings were hung on the mantel. All the children hoped good St. Nicholas would come and fill their stockings. The children were all sound asleep in their nice warm beds. They were dreaming about candies, dolls, drums, books, rocking-horses, and trumpets.

Mother tied her handkerchief to her head, and I put on my cap. We both went to bed to take a long sleep on that cold winter night. Suddenly we heard a great noise. I jumped out of bed and ran to the window to see what the matter was. I opened the shutters and raised the sash. I looked out and saw a strange sight, that filled me with wonder. The ground was covered with clean, white snow. The full moon was shining, and it was bright like day.

I saw a very little sleigh and eight tiny reindeer. A little, old driver sat in the sleigh. He was very lively and quick. I knew the little man was St. Nicholas, who had come to fill my children's stockings. His little reindeer ran faster than horses. St. Nicho-

las whistled, and shouted, and cracked his whip. He talked to his reindeer and called them by name. I heard him call their names, and the names were: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder, and Blitzen. He said to them: "Go to the top of the porch; go to the top of the wall. Hurry and run fast." The reindeer and the sleigh quickly came to the house-top. They came up like dry leaves which fly to the sky when the wind whirls them around. St. Nicholas sat in the sleigh, and it was full of toys. In a moment, I heard the reindeer stamping and pawing on the roof with their little hoofs. Then I shut the window and turned around, and saw St. Nicholas jump down the chimney. He was dressed in furs from his head to his feet. His clothes were all black and dirty with ashes and soot. He had a bundle of toys on his back. He looked like a little peddler opening his box. His eyes were bright, and twinkled with fun. He had two merry dimples on his cheeks, and his cheeks were red like roses, and his nose was red like a cherry. His funny little mouth was like a bow. His beard was white like the snow. He held a short pipe in his teeth, and the smoke curled above his head like a wreath. He had a broad face and a little round belly. When he laughed, his belly shook like a bowl of jelly. He was very short and fat, and he was a very jolly old fellow. I could not look at him without laughing. He winked at me, and shook his jolly old head. Then I was not afraid of him. He spoke not one word, but quickly went to work. He filled all the stockings with toys. Then he turned around and put his finger to his nose. He nodded his head to me and then went up the chimney. He jumped into his sleigh and whistled to his reindeer. Then away they went, like thistle-down flying in the wind. And when he drove away I heard him say: "Good night; a happy Christmas to all."

LITTLE PETERKIN AND THE JAM-POT.

THERE was once a boy named Peterkin. He was a very small boy, and he was very mischievous. He loved to eat sweet things. He had a "very sweet tooth." He often stole sugar and cakes.

A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS

He was fond of raspberry jam. Peterkin's grandmother always had raspberry jam, which she kept on the shelf in the pantry. Peterkin often climbed to the shelf and ate the jam. One night while the folks were sitting around the fire in the kitchen, Peterkin slipped away. He went to the pantry. He searched for the jam in the dark and found it. He ate the jam greedily with his fingers until at last it was all gone. He wanted to lick the jar, so he thought he would put his head in the jar. He tried to do this, but the jar was small. Peterkin heard a noise, and it frightened him. He jerked the jar, and it slipped over his ears. Peterkin could not get his head out of the jar, and he was much frightened. He ran through the dark hall into the kitchen. The folks were much surprised. Peterkin ran about the kitchen with the jar on his head. His brothers and sisters laughed at him. Peterkin ran against grandmother's rocking chair. The jar was broken, and it fell from his head on the floor. Peterkin's face was covered with jam, and he looked very funny. He said he had enough raspberry jam that time.

THE ARABIAN HORSE.

ARABIA is the name of a country in Asia. People travel through Arabia on camels and on horses. The Arabian horses are the finest in the world. The people who live in Arabia are called Arabs. The Arabs often rob travellers and merchants who are crossing the desert. A desert is a dry, sandy country, where trees and grass cannot grow. Once an Arab and his tribe attacked a caravan in the desert. After binding the merchants, they began to take the valuable goods from the camels. They were very busy and did not think of danger. Suddenly, a company of Turkish horsemen rushed upon them. These horsemen had come to meet the caravan. The Turks fought with the Arabs and killed a great many of them and took many prisoners. They bound their prisoners with cords and carried them away to Acre. They intended to give them to the Pasha.

During the fight, the Arab Chief was wounded in the arm.

The Turks took the Chief's horse away from him and bound the Chief upon a camel. The Turks then travelled toward Acre with their prisoners.

One night they encamped in the mountains with their prisoners. The wounded Chief had his legs bound together with a strap. He was lying by a tent. The Turks were sleeping in the tent. The Chief's wound hurt him very much, and he could not sleep because of the pain. During the night, he heard his horse neighing among the other horses in a tent at some distance from him. He recognized his horse's voice. He was very fond of his horse, and he wanted very much to see it again. He wanted to pat his horse's neck, and speak to it. He thought he would try to see his horse again. He crawled painfully on the ground, on his hands and knees. At last he reached the horse. The horse was tied with a hair rope. The horse recognized its master. It bowed its head and rubbed the Arab's cheek with its nose. The Arab patted his horse's neck and spoke kindly to it. The Arab knew that he would soon be put to death, but he said his horse should be free. He gnawed off the hair rope with his teeth, and the horse was free. The Arab told the horse to go home and tell his wife that he would never see her again. But the horse did not run off at once. It looked at its master and smelled him. Then it seized him by his leather girdle with its teeth and ran off at a gallop. It carried its master in its teeth a long while. At last the horse reached the Arab's tent, and dropped its master on the sand before his wife and children. The horse was very, very tired, and it fell down on the sand and died from fatigue. The horse was very intelligent and faithful.

WILLIE'S NEW SLED.

Willie lived at the top of a hill. His father worked in a shop at the bottom of the hill. Willie's father bought him a new sled. It was painted red. The name "Snow Bird" was on the sled. Willie was very proud of it, and he showed it to all his little friends. His friends admired it. When it was pleasant, Willie would slide down the hill on the sled.

One day he put on his overcoat and got his sled. He slid down the hill to meet his father. He reached the shop and called to his father. His father came out of the shop. Willie sat on the sled, and his father pulled him up the hill. Willie was very happy. He was not a selfish boy, and he often lent his sled to other boys.

The next day when Willie started down the hill to meet his father, the road was very icy, and his sled ran very fast. An ox-team was coming up the hill. The hill was very steep and Willie could not steer his sled out of the road. He did not know what to do, and he was afraid he would get hurt.

A farmer was driving the oxen. He was a kind, good man. He saw Willie coming down the hill very fast on his sled. He was afraid Willie would run under the feet of the oxen and get hurt, so he got off his large sled and ran toward Willie. He caught hold of him and pulled him off the sled. Willie was now safe, and he was very grateful to the farmer. He thanked the kind farmer. Willie tied his small sled to the hind end of the farmer's large sled. He sat on it, and the oxen pulled both sleds up the hill. When Willie reached home, he told his parents about it. His parents were very glad he was safe.

THE MOUSE, THE FROG, AND THE HAWK.

A LITTLE mouse lived on the land. One day the mouse met a frog. The frog lived in the water. The mouse and the frog became friends. The frog was not a good friend. He was mischievous and treacherous, but the mouse did not know it.

The frog thought he would tease the mouse and have some fun. He tied the foot of the mouse to his own foot. Then he led the mouse to a green field. They ate in the field. The frog led the mouse to the water. The frog jumped into the water and pulled the mouse in with him. The frog swam in the water and laughed. He thought it was very funny. The poor mouse could not swim. His leg was tied to the frog's leg, and he could not escape. The mouse was soon drowned, and his dead body floated on the water.

A hawk was flying in the air. It saw the dead mouse floating on the water, and it flew down and caught the mouse in its claws. Then it flew up in the air again. The frog's leg was still tied to the leg of the mouse. So the hawk carried away the mouse and the frog together. The hawk ate them both.

If we harm others, we will ourselves get harm.

THE DUCK AND HER FAMILY.

A MOTHER duck sat a long time on twelve white eggs. At last eleven little yellow ducks and one white chicken came out of the eggs. The mother duck was very proud of her family. A woman put them in a coop and gave corn to them. In a few days, she opened the coop door. The old duck called the little ducks and the one chicken. The old duck went to a pond of clear water. The little ducks and the little chicken followed her. The old duck went into the water and swam in the pond. She put her head under the water and threw the water over her feathers. She coaxed the little ducks and the chicken. Little ducks can swim very nicely. Little chickens cannot swim. The eleven yellow ducks went into the water, but the white chicken staid on the ground. It was afraid to jump in the water. The mother duck swam to the shore. The chicken hopped on her back and sat very still. The old duck swam around the pond many times. When the warm summer days were gone, the woman put the ducks and the chicken in the coop. They became very fat and large. She cooked one duck and the chicken for Thanksgiving Day.

THE POND LILIES.

JULIA lived in the city. She lived near a large building called a hospital. Many sick and lame people lived in the hospital. They lay on little beds, and they could not go out of the house for a long time. One day Julia went to the country to see her two

cousins. They lived near a pretty pond of clear water. Many water-lilies grew in the pond. Julia and her two cousins jumped into a little boat and rowed on the pond. Julia carried a large basket on her arm, which she filled with the beautiful water-lilies. She took the basket of lilies to the city.

Julia was a kind and good girl. She went to the hospital and took the lilies and gave them to the sick people in the hospital. They were very glad, and thanked her. One little blind girl held a lily in her hand. She smelled the lily, and laughed. All the sick people loved Julia, and praised her.

LITTLE PAUL AND OLD MOTHER MOLL.

Old Mother Moll lived alone in a dark wood. She was a queer old woman. Her chin turned up, and her nose turned down. She wore high heeled shoes and a high pointed hat. People did not often visit Old Mother Moll. Little Paul lived at the edge of the wood. He had often heard his parents talk about Mother Moll. One day he thought he would like to visit Mother Moll. He thought she had a great deal of money hidden in her cottage. He thought he would go and do something to please Mother Moll. Then she would make him her heir. So little Paul walked through the woods to Mother Moll's cottage. He rapped on the door. Mother Moll said: "Come in." Little Paul walked in. He bowed very low to Mother Moll. He said: "Good morning, Mother Moll. I hope you are well this fine day." Old Mother Moll had a black cat on her lap. She stroked the cat, and winked very funny. She chuckled to herself. Then she said: "My nice little boy, you can't fool me. But if you are a good boy, and do not meddle, I will make you my heir." Old Mother Moll took her crutch and hobbled out of the room. Little Paul followed her, and she led him to a dark and gloomy room. Old Mother Moll told little Paul to stay in this room until she came back. She told him to sit still and not meddle. Little Paul sat very still a long time. Then he became impatient, and slipped to

the window. He opened a shutter to let in the light. Then he looked about the room. He saw a great many black cats on the walls. Black cats were on the ceiling, and black cats were on the floor. He was frightened. Then he saw a very nice box on the table. He forgot the cats, and looked at the box. He thought Old Mother Moll kept her money in the box. He decided he would look in the box, for he thought nobody would see him. He got on a chair near the table. Then he raised the lid of the box. There was no money in the box. It was full of yellow snuff, which flew up into little Paul's face. It got in his nose, and it made him sneeze very much. Old Mother Moll heard little Paul sneeze. She came to the door, and saw him. He sneezed, and sneezed, and sneezed. Mother Moll laughed at him, and told him she would not give him her silver and gold. She said she did not like meddlesome boys. She told him to go home. Little Paul sneezed. He took his hat and sneezed. He went out and sneezed. He walked through the woods and sneezed. He sneezed when he got home. And he sneezed when he went to bed. He was well punished for being meddlesome.

THE FARMER AND HIS PIG.

THERE was a farmer who had a pig. He fed it and took good care of it, and it grew large and fat. The farmer thought he would drive it to the city and sell it. The pig was worth twenty dollars. But the farmer was not satisfied. He wanted to sell it for more money.

So one evening he gave his pig salt, which the pig ate. The salt made it very thirsty, and it drank several bucketfuls of water. The farmer thought that he would make his pig heavier and sell it for more money. He thought that he would get twenty-five dollars. In the morning, he gave his pig more water. The pig was thirsty and drank until it could drink no more. Then the farmer drove it to the city. He chuckled to himself. He thought he was very smart. He thought he would cheat somebody and make five dollars more than his pig was worth.

It was a very warm summer day, and the roads were very hot and dusty. At last, the farmer and his pig came to the city. They were walking on a wide street. Suddenly the pig staggered. It fell, rolled over, and died. The farmer was surprised and grieved. The salt and water had killed the pig.

He walked on and left his dead pig lying on the street. A policeman saw him. The policeman made him get a wagon and take his dead pig away. If he had been honest, he would have gotten twenty dollars; but by trying to cheat he lost all. He went home, but he did not laugh. He did not think himself very smart.

THE FARMER AND THE FOX.

A FARMER had many chickens, ducks, and geese. A fox stole many of them. The farmer was very angry. At last he caught the fox. He thought he would be revenged.

He poured oil on the fox's tail. Then he set fire to the tail. The fox ran into the farmer's field. The wheat was yellow and ripe in the field. The burning tail of the fox set fire to the wheat, and the wheat in the field was all burned up. The farmer lost all his wheat. He hurt the fox, but he hurt himself more.

Revenge is often very costly.

MILTIADES AND THE TRAMP.

MILTIADES was seven years old, but he was very small. He was too small to work in the field. But his older brothers worked in the field. They made hay every day. At noon Miltiades took their dinner to them. One day Miltiades' sister gave him a bucket. His brothers' dinner was in it. His sister told him to take the bucket to his brothers in the field. She told him to hurry, and she told him not to tell the tramps what he had in the bucket. If he told the tramps, they would steal it. Then Miltiades hastened down the road with the bucket. When he came to the stile in the

fence, he found a tramp sitting by the stile. He looked very hungry. His shoes were torn, and his toes stuck out. Little Miltiades thought he was a nice man. The tramp was very civil, and he lifted his hat to Miltiades. He said "Good day," and called Miltiades "a nice little fellow." Miltiades was much pleased. The tramp asked him what his name was, and where he was going, and what he had in his bucket. Miltiades answered that he had his brothers' dinner in the bucket. Then the tramp flattered him. He said that he had very nice legs. He said that he knew he could run very fast. Now Miltiades felt very proud, and he wanted to show the tramp how fast he could run. The tramp said that he wanted to see Miltiades run. He said he wanted to see how quickly he could run to the top of the hill. Miltiades consented. He threw off his hat, and put down the bucket by the fence. The tramp said that he would take care of it. Miltiades was now ready. The tramp said: "Go." Then Miltiades ran up the hill with all his might. He did not look behind him. When he reached the top of the hill, he was warm and tired, and he sat down and rested a while. Then he walked back to the stile. The tramp was not there. Miltiades looked for the bucket, but it was gone. Then he knew that the tramp had fooled him. He knew that he had gone off with the bucket. Miltiades put on his hat, and said: "It is lucky he did not take my hat, too." Then he walked home, a sadder but a wiser boy.

HONESTY REWARDED.

Once upon a time, a merchant went on a journey. He rode on a horse. After he had bought many jewels, he started for home. He put the jewels in a leather purse, and fastened it to his belt; and he had a purse full of money which he fastened to the saddle. He came to a small river. The river was shallow, but there was a deep pool in the middle. The merchant knew about the pool, for he had often crossed the river before. But he had become very careless, and he rode too near the pool. His horse was

swept away, his purse full of money was lost, and the merchant was thrown into the water. A laborer plowing a field near by, saw the man in the river. The laborer took a horse from the plow, and rode to the edge of the pool. He seized the merchant by his cloak and drew him safely to land.

The laborer laid the merchant on a pile of straw in the field. He took off the merchant's clothes and laid them on the straw, while his wife warmed the bed. He took off the merchant's belt. The leather purse dropped from the belt into the straw, and the laborer did not see it. He threw the straw into a ditch. When the merchant recovered from his fright, he looked for his purse, but could not find it, and he was greatly distressed. He thought the laborer had stolen his jewels. He accused him of the theft. The laborer told the merchant that he did not see the purse, but the merchant did not believe him. He went away very angry.

A short time after the merchant left, the laborer was working in his field. He was cleaning out the ditch, and he found the purse. He was very glad. He thought he would watch for the merchant, and give his purse to him. He, his wife, and his children often walked on the road and watched for the merchant, but they did not see him.

The laborer became very poor, and he owed much money. He was very sad, and he sometimes thought he would sell the jewels in the purse. But he was an honest man, and would not act dishonestly. One evening the laborer and his family were eating their supper. They heard a carriage stop at their door, and they ran to the window to see who was coming. They saw the merchant and several other men coming to the door. They were very much frightened, for they thought he had come to punish them. The children ran away and hid, and the father and mother turned pale.

The merchant and his companions came into the house. The merchant threw his arms around the laborer's neck, and told the laborer that he now believed him. He asked the laborer to forgive him for accusing him of stealing the purse. The laborer and his wife were greatly surprised. He asked the merchant why he now believed him. The merchant said: "Because I have been watching you. If you had stolen the purse you would not now be poor.

You would have sold the jewels and gotten a great deal of money." The merchant said he would pay all the laborer's debts.

The laborer went into another room to get the purse. In a few minutes, he returned and gave the purse to the merchant. The merchant was astonished. He took the purse and opened it. He found all his jewels in the purse. The laborer then told the merchant where he had found the purse. The merchant wished the laborer to keep the purse; but he refused. The merchant promised to reward the laborer in some way. In a few days he bought a large farm and gave it to the laborer. The laborer was very grateful. He lived on the farm and became rich, and the merchant often visited him.

JOE AND THE MULE.

Joe was about ten years old. He lived in the country and helped his father work on the farm. Joe was very fond of horses, and he thought that mules were very beautiful animals. He wanted to ride a mule, but his father had none. Joe's father had a great deal of wheat, oats, and rye in the stacks. In the fall, the threshers came to thresh out this grain. They brought a large threshing machine. They had two mules working in the machine. One was a very small mule, which Joe liked very much. He kept looking at it all the time. At noon, when the men quit working, Joe asked them to let him ride the small mule to water. A man put Joe on the mule, and he rode through a corn field to the well. The corn had been cut, and there was much sharp stubble in the field. Joe was very much pleased to ride the mule. As they went through the corn field, the mule became scared. It jumped suddenly when Joe was not watching. He fell off, and his foot caught in the harness. Joe hung by his foot in the harness. The little mule was very much frightened, and it ran around the field. It jumped and kicked and reared. Still Joe hung in the harness. The men who were helping thresh ran to the field, and tried to catch the mule. They thought Joe would surely be killed. The mule dragged Joe everywhere, and the sharp stubble tore his

clothes all off, and cut his body all over. The men chased the mule a long time. At last they caught it, and took Joe out of the harness. They carried him to the house and put him on a bed. Joe was not killed, but he was very badly hurt. He had to lie in bed for two weeks. He got well, but he never rode a mule again. Joe is a man now, but he remembers his ride on that little mule.

THE WHITE GOOSE.

THERE was once an old woman, who was poor and lean. She lived alone in a hut. One day a stranger came to her door. It was a very cold and windy day. He had a white goose in his arms. He told the old woman to take the goose to keep her warm. She tied the goose by the leg. That day the goose laid a golden egg. The old woman picked up the egg, and ran to show it to her neighbors. She went back home. She kept the goose in the hut, and the goose laid a golden egg every day. The old woman sold the eggs and received a great deal of money for them.

Soon the old woman moved into a large house, and hired servants to work for her. She took her goose with her. Every time the goose laid an egg, it cackled and made a great noise. The old woman became fat and very proud, and the noise of the goose troubled her very much. She sat in a large easy chair. She was too fat to move easily, and she threw pans and kettles at the goose, but could not hit it.

One cold day it cackled, and hissed, and screamed, and annoyed the old woman. At last she became angry. She called a servant. She told the servant to catch the goose and kill it. The servant, the dog, and the cat all ran after the goose. The goose flew around the house, and they could not catch it.

While they were trying to catch the goose, a stranger came to the door. He took the goose under his arm, and went away with it. It was a very windy day. The wind blew the chimneys off the old woman's house. The windows blew into the house. The fires went out. The old woman's cap blew off her head. Her dress blew up, and a very strong wind blew everything out of the

cupboard. Now she had no goose to keep her warm and to lay golden eggs for her. She had no fire. She had nothing to eat. She became poor again, and she went to live in the hut. She hated the stranger who took away the goose.

THE BLIND MEN AND THE ELEPHANT.

THERE were six blind men, who lived in Hindostan. They all thought they were very wise. These blind men had never seen an elephant. They had often heard about this huge animal. They all wished to know what the elephant was like. So one day they went to examine an elephant.

The first blind man went close to the elephant. He stumbled and fell against the elephant's side. The side of the elephant felt hard and firm. Then the blind man cried out: "Yes, I know what the elephant is like. It is very much like a wall."

The second blind man felt the elephant's tusk. The tusk was very smooth and round and sharp. The blind man said: "It is all very clear to me. This wonder of an elephant is very much like a spear."

The third blind man approached the animal. He happened to take the squirming trunk in his hand. Then he spoke boldly and said: "I see the elephant is very much like a snake."

The fourth blind man reached out his hand and felt the elephant's leg. The leg was large, round, and rough. Then the blind man said: "It is plain enough. The elephant is just like a tree."

The fifth blind man happened to touch the elephant's ear. He said: "The blindest man could easily tell what an elephant resembles most. It is very much like a fan."

The sixth blind man groped about the elephant. He seized the swinging tail and felt it. He was satisfied that the elephant was very much like a rope.

So these blind men quarrelled long about the elephant which none of them had seen. They were very stubborn. Each insisted

that he was right. This is the way with many people in the world. They often dispute and quarrel about what they do not understand at all.

AN UMBRELLA ANECDOTE.

THE people of Spain are often at war with each other. Sometimes Spain is a Republic, and sometimes it is a Monarchy. During one of the wars, a nobleman left his beautiful home and joined the soldiers. He had one beautiful daughter. While her father was away, she was alone with the servants in the summer palace. One day a band of robbers attacked the palace. The lady assembled all the servants to defend the palace. They fastened the doors and windows. But they had been surprised, and were not prepared for the attack. In a little while their powder and lead were gone, and they were obliged to surrender to the robbers. The robbers entered the palace.

The lady ran from room to room to hide from the robbers. At last she went to an old room in the top of the house. She piled trunks and lumber against the door. She thought she could stay there while the robbers pillaged the house. But the robbers wanted to capture the beautiful young lady, for they knew that her father would pay a great deal of money for her. They soon found her hiding place. They pounded on the door, and the lady knew they would soon get into the room. She looked around for a weapon. She saw an old umbrella which had belonged to her father. It was dusty and moth-eaten, and it had stood against the wall for years. She seized it and ran to the window. Just then, the robbers broke open the door. One of them went into the room. He saw the umbrella in her hand. He laughed scornfully at her. She thrust the old umbrella into his face. He was surprised, and jumped back. Then she quickly jumped on the window sill. The window was open. Before the robber could seize her, she jumped out of the window. The robbers were horrified, and ran to the window and looked out. They thought they would see her lying dead on the pavement.

The old umbrella, which she held tightly, had saved her from death. During her descent, she opened it. The air filled it, and she fell gently to the ground. She reached the ground safely, and ran to the gate before the robbers could follow her. She ran to the house of a friend and was safe. She is now married and lives at the Spanish court. But she will always keep the old umbrella which saved her life.

THE BEAR AND THE TEA-KETTLE.

MANY bears live in Asia. They eat fish, which they catch in the rivers. A few years ago the fish became very scarce. The bears became hungry, and they wandered about the country in search of food. Sometimes they entered the villages and walked about the streets. Once a bear went to a gate and found it open.

HE FOLDED HIS ARMS AROUND THE KETTLE

He went into the yard and walked to the house. The woman of the house had placed a tea-kettle of boiling water on the step. The bear smelt the kettle and it burnt his nose. This made him very angry, and he folded his arms around the kettle. He tried

to crush it. He pressed it against his breast with his whole strength. But this burnt the silly bear very much. The bear howled terribly with pain and anger. The people heard him and ran to see what the matter was. The people were astonished and amused at the silly bear. But some persons pitied the bear and shot him.

GELERT.

MANY years ago, a rich gentleman lived at the foot of a high hill. The gentleman's name was Llewelyn. King John gave a beautiful dog to Llewelyn. The dog's name was Gelert. Llewelyn became very fond of the dog. He often rode far into the forest with some friends. Gelert always followed him. But one day Gelert did not follow him to the woods, and Llewelyn was angry. He returned home. His little son was asleep in a bed-room. He went to the bed-room. He met Gelert at the door of the bed-room. The dog was covered with blood. Llewelyn went into the room. He saw the bed upset on the floor, but he could not see the child. He was astonished and troubled, and he thought the dog had killed the child. He thrust a sword through the dog. Poor Gelert barked once and died. The child was asleep under the bed clothes. He heard the dog bark, and waked, and cried. Llewelyn heard the child cry. He was delighted, and took the child from under the bed clothes. Llewelyn then saw a large dead wolf near the bed clothes. He now knew the dog had killed the wolf and saved the child. He was sorry he had killed the noble dog.

THE GOLDEN GLOVE.

THERE was once a rich and beautiful lady, who was to be married to a lord. A few days before the wedding, the lord brought a rich and handsome farmer to see the lady. The lord was very proud of the lady, because she was so beautiful. He also loved the

lady very much. When the lady saw the farmer, she immediately fell in love with him. And before the farmer left the lady's house he fell in love with her.

When the morning of the wedding day came, the lady pretended to be sick. She staid in bed. The wedding was put off. In the afternoon the lady arose. She put on a man's suit and disguised her face. Then she took a gun and her dogs and went to hunt on the farmer's grounds.

She crossed the fields several times. She hallooed to her dogs, for she wanted the farmer to hear her. But she did not see the farmer, and she was disappointed. She thought the farmer was absent from home. So she started home. As she was walking on the road, she saw the farmer coming towards her. She pretended to be much surprised. She told him she thought he would be at the wedding of the beautiful lady and lord.

The farmer sighed and looked sad when he heard her say this. He said he was in love with the lady, and could not see her married to the lord. She was pleased to hear the farmer say this, and she asked him what he would be willing to do to gain the rich and beautiful lady for his wife. He said he would be willing to fight a duel with the lord.

The lady then drew a glove embroidered with gold from her pocket. She gave the glove to the farmer. She told him she picked it up on the road. She said he knew many people and could find the owner of the glove. Then she went home.

The next day she sent a man through the town to tell all the people she had lost her glove embroidered with gold. She told the man to say she would marry the man that would find the glove.

The handsome farmer heard the man say this, and he was wild with joy. He took the glove to the lady's house, and gave it to her, and reminded her of the promise she had made to marry the one who found it.

Before the farmer left, she had promised to be his wife. The lord heard the lady had promised to be the farmer's wife, and he was very angry. He told the farmer he could not have the lady for his wife. He said the lady had promised to marry him. The

lord challenged the farmer to fight a duel with swords. The farmer accepted the challenge. He said he would not give the lady up while there was a breath in his body.

They chose the swords and went out in a field to fight. A few friends went with them. They fought a long time, and at last the farmer struck the lord a hard blow. The lord fell on his knees. The farmer put his sword to the lord's throat, and made him promise to give the beautiful lady to him for his wife. He said if he refused he would kill him. The lord gave up all claim to the lady and begged the farmer not to kill him.

Soon the handsome farmer and the rich lady were married. After a long time, she told her husband about the glove. She told him it was not a man he had met on the road but herself. She told him how she fell in love with him the first time she saw him. The farmer thought his wife was very bright. He was very happy. They loved each other very much and lived happily together.

THE DOG WHO RANG FOR HIS DINNER.

A LONG time ago a poor woman lived in a little hut. She had a little dog named Fido. The woman was very fond of Fido. Many times the poor woman and Fido had nothing to eat, and they became very hungry. Fido was a strong and wise little dog. A convent was near the little hut. Some good nuns lived in the convent who were kind to poor people.

One day Fido was very hungry. He went to the convent and stood at the door. A bell hung over the door, and a rope was tied to the bell. Fido saw a beggar go to the door. The beggar pulled the rope, and the bell rang, and a nun opened the door. She held a bowl of soup and meat in her hand which she gave to the beggar. He thanked the nun and sat on a bench and ate the soup and meat. Fido sat in front of the beggar watching him eating. But the beggar did not give any meat to Fido. When he had finished eating, he put the empty bowl in a hole in the door and walked away.

Fido was very hungry, and he was very smart too. He jumped up, and ran to the door of the convent, and pulled the rope. The bell rang, and the good nun opened the door. She had a plate of meat and potatoes in her hand. She looked all around, but she saw nobody, and she was surprised. She went

HE JUMPED UP, AND RAN TO THE DOOR OF THE CONVENT, AND PULLED THE BELL

in and shut the door. Poor little Fido was disappointed. But he pulled the rope again. This time she looked out of a window. She saw the dog, and she laughed and opened the door. She thought the dog must be very hungry, and she gave him a good dinner. She thought Fido was a wise dog. Every day she gave him his dinner. One day she put some nice food in a basket.

Fido carried the basket in his mouth to the poor woman. The woman was very glad to get the food. People heard about Fido, and they often went to see him pull the rope and eat his dinner.

CONTENTMENT.

CONTENTMENT is a great virtue. Everybody knows this, but everybody is not contented. If all could be contented all would be happy. We cannot have everything we wish. But we can have some things we wish. Let us then be thankful for what we have, and make the best use of it. Those who do well in little things are the ones who do well in great things. Wherever we may be, let us make the best use of our time. Then if God have other work for us, He will, in time, direct us to it.

LITTLE THINGS.

MANY little things make great things. A drop of water is little, yet drops of water make great rivers. Without the little drops of rain, the rivers would all soon dry up, and every living thing would die. Little grains of sand make great mountains. One little grain of wheat, by its increase, would soon feed all the people in the world. Little things are great for good and for evil. Then may the Lord make our little words and our little acts be for good, and not for evil.

BUT love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.—St. Luke vi. 35.

"SAVE the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves."

FROM THE PSALM OF LIFE.

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;—

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

A CHILD'S EVENING PRAYER.

Ere on my bed my limbs I lay,
God grant me grace my prayer to say.
O God, preserve my mother dear
In health and strength for many a year;
And oh! preserve my father too,
And may I pay him reverence due—
And may I my best thoughts employ
To be my parents' hope and joy.
And oh! preserve my brothers both
From evil doings and from sloth;
And may we always love each other,
Our friends, our father, and our mother.
And still, O Lord, to me impart
An innocent and grateful heart,
That after my last sleep I may
Awake to thy eternal day! Amen.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge.